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VOL. V. PITTSBURGH, MONDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 10, 1868. NO. 127.

LOCAL NOTICES.

Joseph Horne & Co.,
Importers and Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Straw Goods, Ribbons, Notions, Trimming and Hosiery, Nos. 77 and 79 Market street, Pittsburgh, Pa. MWS

The Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine
Is the perfection of mechanism. It uses the crystal cloth Presser, Braider, Corder, Improved Hemmer, Quilters, Tuckers, &c.; has attachments for Embroidering and making Button Holes. None are so simple; none are so durable. Salesroom, No. 347 Fifth street. FS

Dry Goods at Wholesale.
We are offering full lines of Bleached and Brown Muslins, Prints, Ticks, Ginghams, and other staple goods, making the largest stock in the West, and at less than Eastern prices. J. W. Barker & Co., No. 59 Market street. tf

Laird's Bloom of Youth.
The genuine article sold at lowest rates, at Fleming's Drug Store, No. 84 Market street.

Dress Goods,
Most unusual bargains, at Barker's.

Excitement in the Sixth Ward.
This is in consequence of the tremendously low prices for Dry Goods of every description at *Soucy's* new store, No. 168 Wylie, *near Elm street.* If you want the best French Merinos, all wool Delaines, best 4-4 Ticking, best Prints, Cassimeres, Breakfast Shawls, Tweeds, Hosiery, Gloves, elegant Plaids, bleached Canton Flannels, Blankets, Goods Purchasing Goods, go at once to Soucy's—*the cheapest dry goods house in Pittsburgh.*

Wet Table Linen,
At Barker's. Great bargains.

The Paragon of Family Sewing Machines
Is that manufactured by the Singer Manufacturing Company of New York, for which Messrs. Straw & Morton, corner of St. Clair and Penn streets, Pittsburgh, Pa., *are the Sole Western Agents.*

The Bismarck Collar,
Now so pre-eminently popular and in great demand, can always be had at Joseph Horne & Co.'s, Nos. 77 and 79 Market street.

Fine Grates,
Summer Fronts and Fenders, for sale at very low rates by Bissell & Co., No. 235 Liberty street. SMW

See the 12 1-2 Cents
Shirting Muslins at Barker's.

Hot Air Furnaces.
And Hot Air Registers, best quality, for sale by Bissell & Co. 235 Liberty street. SMW

See the Great Bargains
In Solid Blankets at Barker's.

Trunks, Trunks,
At John Bell's No. 35 Market street, three doors from Second street.

Parlor Stoves,
Heating Stoves, Laundry Stoves, Cook Stoves, Grate Fronts, Fenders, Summer Fronts, &c., for sale by Bissell & Co., 235 Liberty street. SMW

Wet Sheetings
At Barker's, cheap.

Leaf Tobacco,
Havana, Yara, Connecticut, New York State, at New York prices, branch of Julian Allen, 172 Water Street, New York. Daniel F. Dinan, 75 Water street, Pittsburgh.

Wet Toweling
At Barker's, very cheap.

The Celebrated
Triumph Cook Stove, for coal, for sale by Bissell & Co., 235 Liberty street. SMW

The Daily Commercial

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

A rumor is again in circulation in Montreal of the probable resignation of Sir John A. McDonald.

Carlos F. Garlan has become temporary Governor of Lower California.

The Excelsior factory in Skowhegan, Me., was burned Friday night. Loss $30,000; insurance $5,000.

It is reported a strong force of regular troops are to be stationed along the Niagara frontier, in Canada, on the opening of navigation, with a view to possible Fenian movements.

A fire in Boston yesterday, in the granite building Nos. 113 and 115 Commercial street, consumed the two upper stories. The building was occupied by ship chandlers, commission merchants, etc., whose stocks were much injured by fire and water. The losses are pretty heavy, but all the sufferers were insured.

BY MAILS.

The State of North Carolina owes a net indebtedness of $14,804,000, including about a million and a half of over-due interest. A proposition is pending before the Convention now in session there, to issue twenty years five per cent. bonds for half the amount, or fifty cents on the dollar. A correspondent, who is at Raleigh, writes that even this offer is not favorably received, that the temper of the Convention is for repudiation.

Some laborers employed by Mr. Vanderbilt applied to have their time reduced to the eight-hour system. The Commodore ordered their time reduced to *seven* hours, and paid them *pro rata.* One of the Irishmen, who did not like this turn of affairs, said to his neighbor: "Well, Mike, I wish the Commodore was in ——." "Oh," said Pat, "Bedad that wouldn't help you, for he'd have control of the whole place inside of a week."

The New York *Sunday Mercury* says: "The suit recently commenced by Mrs. Pepry, known as the 'Washington woman,' against Henry A. Smythe, Collector of the Port of New York, to recover a large amount, as her share of Smythe's sale of the General Order business, for $40,000, has been quietly settled through the intervention of President Johnston, whose friendship for the lady has secured her a small fortune from Government patronage." Where is Mrs. Cobb?

A Dayton correspondent writes: "The friends of Mr. Vallandigham say that he is now for 'war to the knife' against the party managers in Ohio. They say that there will be a third party, with Vallandigham at the head of it that will triumph over both the old parties. If this programme does not succeed, then there will be civil war, and there will be no Senate of the United States in less than two years. The details of this programme are too serious for contemplation. 'Things is workin'.'"

One of the "medical faculty" in New York, recently said that during the past sixty years the improvements in the medical art had increased longevity seventy-one per cent. in Paris, and that in London the difference of death rates between the nineteenth and the eighteenth centuries was greater than between a year of general health and a year of cholera in that city at the present time.

After the first edition of Queen Victoria's last book had been printed and bound, a gross and abominable typographical error was found in it, on account of which a leaf had to be changed in every copy. It was the work of a mischievous compositor.

The New Orleans *Crescent*, a Democratic paper, estimates that only about two thousand will be disfranchised in Louisiana by the provision of the Constitution adopted by the State Convention.

The Washington correspondent of the New York *Times* thus illustrates how the rule of the majority may be abused: "Two years ago, when the internal revenue bill was under discussion in the Senate, propositions involving millions of dollars to the Government, were decided by a majority of one—and more than once; I have seen that majority of one ushered in from the restaurant in such condition of limb and brain, that I doubt if he could have told next morning just how he had voted, or what he had voted on."

The little village of Rochester, in Oakland county, Michigan, was mainly destroyed by fire on Tuesday.

The personal property of the Cincinnati newspaper establishments is returned for taxation as follows: *Gazette* Company, $56,848; M. Halstead & Co., *Commercial*, $66,046; Farran & McLean, *Enquirer*, $39,000; C. W. Starbuck & Co., *Times*, $37,134.

MR. JENCKES, of Rhode Island, has introduced into the House of Representatives a bill to reduce the law expenses of the various departments of the Government. He proposes to create what he calls the Department of Justice, which shall perform the duties and exercise the functions now performed and exercised by the Attorney General, the Solicitor of the Treasury, and their subordinates, and put an end to the practice of employing special counsel in important cases. Some people think that this bill, if passed, will save three-fourths of the present legal expenses of the departments, but we question it; especially as Mr. Jenckes would create new officers, under the names of Attorney General and Solicitor General, with an assistant to each. Even if it did save in one way, it might cause a loss in another, by the loss of contested cases, more than sufficient to counterbalance it. Cheap law is a dear luxury.

IN view of the late letters of Grant, the Springfield *Republican* aptly remarks: "Grant seem to have acted all through the affair with his accustomed sagacity and deliberation, and has not made a false move nor one without careful consideration. He acted with Gen. Sherman as his confidential adviser, and nobody doubts that the two are more than a match for the President and his whole cabinet combined. The publication of the correspondence dismisses all doubts of Grant's position towards the Republican majority in Congress or towards the administration and its supporters. Grant's reticence has been only a wise silence until the time should come for the disclosure of State secrets, and in the most effective manner."

FIRST EDITION.

12 O'CLOCK, M.

THE CAPITAL.

Minister to the Court of St. James.

Geo. T. Curtis Named for the Mission.

THE IMPEACHMENT QUESTION AGAIN

Damaging Facts in Grant's Possession.

Removal of Political Disabilities.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, February 8, 1868.

The English Mission.

It is truly rumored to-day that the English mission has been tended to George Ticknor Curtis. It appears that Mr. Adams's resignation has been in the President's possession for ten days.

Returned to Duty.

Gen. Babcock, of Gen. Grant's staff, returned this morning from his three months' leave of absence. He went to Mexico with Senor Romero, and after a somewhat extended trip in that country made a short visit to Havana.

Advertising for Contracts.

Gen. Grant to-day issued an order exempting certain Department Commissaries and Quartermasters from the general order issued last November, in reference to contracting for supplies and services by advertising so extensively at different parts of the country. Except those authorized, no officer can advertise for such contracts.

The Impeachment Question.

The Reconstruction Committee met to-day and opened their session with important proceedings. The Johnson-Grant correspondence being under consideration, Thad. Stevens declared that the President had clearly violated the Civil Tenure law by ordering General Grant to disobey Secretary Stanton, and that he ought to be impeached at once. Other members acquiesced. The sub-committee appointed on Thursday to examine the law and the facts were not able to report, but it being apparent that their investigations would prove important, it was decided to have the political minority represented, and so Mr. Beck, Democrat, of Kentucky, was added to the sub-committee. A summons was issued for General Grant to appear and testify. He is regarded as the most important witness, and it is understood that he has facts in his possession, other than those publicly stated in his letters to the President, which, if testified to, may impel the committee to report in favor of impeaching Mr. Johnson. General Grant, however, did not appear in time, and the committee proceeded to take the evidence of J. B. Stillson, correspondent of the *World*, regarding his recent interviews with the President. It was very evident around the Capitol to-day that the impeachment party was much stronger than was generally supposed. The Reconstruction Committee meet again on Monday.

Before adjourning to-day they agreed to report a bill to remove political disabilities from Governor Holden, of North Carolina; Governor Orr, of South Carolina, and General Longstreet. A movement to add Beauregard to the list was lost.

The Alabama Convention.

A dispatch from Montgomery, Alabama, to the Republican Congressional Committee says that the election in that State closed last night, and the returns so far indicate the defeat of the new constitution, notwithstanding that the time of the election had been extended by General Meade.

Johnson's Answer Withheld.

It was generally expected that the President's reply to General Grant would be made public to-night, but Mr. Johnson has decided to withhold it for the present, for reasons not known.

Diplomatic Visit.

The entire diplomatic corps called on Secretary Seward last evening, the new British minister being present.

An Unfounded Rumor.

Your correspondent is authorized to say that the printed account of a supposed conversation between Secretary Seward and the British Minister Thornton, in which the latter is represented as becoming indignant at the former upon an allusion to a settlement of the Alabama claims, is purely fiction. Nothing of the kind ever occurred, and the intercourse of Mr. Thornton and our administration thus far has been pleasant and courteous at all times.

The Delano-Morgan Contest.

The House Committee on Elections expect to make a report this week, probably on Tuesday, in the Ohio contested election case of Delano vs. Morgan. It is now asserted that the committee will report in favor of the sitting member, Mr. Morgan.

WASHINGTON, February 8, 1868.

BOARD TO APPRAISE IRON-CLADS.

Commodore John A. Winslow has been ordered to report at Washington as Chairman of the Board to appraise certain iron-clad vessels under act of Congress. Captains John Almey and Foxhall A. Parker, and Chief Engineers J. W. King and E. Senton are ordered to report to Commodore Winslow as members of the board. They will visit all ports where iron-clads are stationed.

DEATH.

S. M. Kean, disbursing clerk of the Treasury Department, in the Secretary's office, died this morning, in his 79th year.

WEEKLY TREASURY STATEMENT.

Fractional currency printed for the week, $523,500; shipments, $441,937; National bank currency issued, $152,080; total in circulation, $299,603; fractional currency destroyed, $57,185.

THE WHISKY METERS.

The new commissioners of whisky metres are Lieutenant Green, of the navy; General Poe, of the Light House Board; John White, of Buffalo; William E. Gurdey, of Troy; Chas. Mason, Professor Kenny and Professor Hilyard, of Washington. They will meet here Tuesday.

BEAVER, PA.

Meeting of Republican County Committee---Delegates to State Convention Instructed for Grant and Curtin.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

BEAVER, PA., via ROCHESTER, February 8, 1868.

The Beaver County Republican Central Committee met in this place to-day, and elected J. C. Boyle and J. S. Rutan, delegates to the State Convention, and appointed Benjamin Wilde, G. C. Barker, Hon. M. S. Quay, D. L. Imbrie and J. Weyand, conferees to meet with conferees from other counties of the district, to select delegates to the National Convention.

Resolutions were unanimously adopted instructing for General Grant for President; Gov. A. G. Curtin for Vice President, and General Hartranft and Col. Campbell for Auditor and Surveyor General. The Committee was largely attended, and was enthusiastic for Grant and Curtin.

SOUTH AMERICA.

Tranquility Restored in Peru---Emigration to Chile.

NEW YORK, February 9.—The steamer Rising Star, from Aspinwall, brings $1,285,333 in California treasure. The Isthmus and Central American news is unimportant.

Lima advices are to January 22d. President Causzos had arrived at Callao, and would proceed to the capital that day, where he would have a cordial reception. Some minor fights occurred at the south, but tranquility was restored, and the whole republic now recognizes Causzos's government.

The rising in Bolivia proved a mere local outbreak, and was easily suppressed.

Valparaiso dates are to January 10. Agents are to leave in March for the United States, Great Britain, &c., to obtain emigrants for the southern portion of Chile. Salt works on a large scale will soon be established near Valparaiso. The Japanese monitor Stonewall arrived at Valparaiso January 6th, in thirty-six days from Montevideo.

THE action to seize the Alabama has been entered in the Court of Admiralty at Liverpool.

IN Rome, as appears from the vital statistics for the year, there are 59 parishes, containing a population of 215,573 persons, being an increase since 1866 of 4,872. There are 30 resident cardinals, 35 bishops, 1,496 priests, and 828 seminarists. The occupants of religious houses are 5,047; 2,832 of whom are monks, and 2,215 nuns. These appertain to 61 different congregations or orders. There are 49 seminaries or colleges, among which are the French Seminary, tenanted by 48 pupils; that of South America by 50; that of North America by 38; the German by 58; the English by 21; the Scotch by 12, and the Irish by 52. The number of families is 42,513; 7,560 persons following military professions; and there are 4,660 Jews.

XLth CONGRESS.

To Western Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 8, 1868.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House immediately after reading the journal went into Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, Mr. DAWES in the chair, for general debate on the President's annual message.

Mr. HUNTER addressed the House on the financial question. He argued that the true cause of the present depression in business arose, first, from the partial failure of the crops; second, from the contraction policy of the Secretary of the Treasury; third, from the action of the Democratic party in delaying the reconstruction of the seceded States. He believed that repudiation was not only the desire but the intention of the Democratic party, if it carried the next election. His own remedy for the difficulty was as follows:

First, that only taxes enough should be levied to pay interest on the public debt and the current expenses of the Government, leaving the principal until the country shall be in a prosperous condition. Second, these taxes should not be levied so as to make every man pay according to his worth, but exclusively on luxuries of the favored classes, the wealth of the country, removing taxation from the laboring and producing interests of the country. Third, all the five-twenty bonds which are payable at the pleasure of the Government five years after date, shall be declared due and payable at this time, and payable in lawful currency of the United States, or exchangeable at the pleasure of the holder into six per cent. January bonds, payable principal and interest in coin, untaxable, but with a deduction of one per cent. to be distributed to States according to population.

Mr. STEVENS, of New Hampshire, spoke on the general policies, attributing the responsibility of the present disturbed condition of the country to the people of the South and their Democratic allies at the North.

Mr. CLARK, of Ohio, addressed the Committee on the subject of National Banks, the currency, public debt, &c. He favored paying the principal of 5-20s in lawful currency, and the substitution of greenbacks for national banknotes, but in such manner as not to do wrong or injury to the banks, which he thought could not be wound up without great evil to the country. He was in favor of the restoration of the free banking system, but would have no banks of issue, the currency being limited to greenbacks and specie.

Mr. JOHNSON next addressed the Committee on the general political questions of the day.

The Committee rose and the House adjourned.

MEXICO.

Pronunciamentos Against the Government---Senor Morales kidnapped and Shot---Naval Engagement, &c., &c.

NEW YORK, February 8.—The *Herald's* Mexican news via Havana cable says pronunciamentos against the Government are multiplying, and General Caronda had fallen under suspicion. A revolution had broken out in Sinaloa. Senor Morales, who had been kidnapped, was shot by his captors on his failure to obtain the required ransom.

A naval engagement is reported at Sisal. The steamer Sonora, at San Luis Potosi, had been released from prison, and the forced taxes have been reduced.

Sinaloa has elected Garcia Morales as Governor. The resignation of General Mendez has been accepted. General Alvarez, in Guerrera, had decided not to heed the instructions of the General Government, and was preparing to settle his dispute with Alvarez by an appeal to arms. He intended to march against Acapulco.

NEW YORK, February 8.—A Mazatlan special of February 1st says: the revolutionists are uniting their forces to attack Governor Rubi, who is in the mountains with 1,200 men, had one fight, and a decisive battle was daily expected. If he is beaten, it was thought he would be sustained by the forces of President Juarez. Gen. Martinez proclaimed himself Governor of Sinaloa, on the 18th and called for a loan of one hundred thousand dollars. Several bodies of regular troops declared in his favor.

A riot in Durango had been suppressed.

An American woman was found murdered near Guadalajara, with seven stiletto stabs about her breast and heart.

GALVESTON, February 8.—The Bureau of Mexican Intelligence at Brownsville has the following news: Another revolution has broken out under Valdest. A detachment of Government troops had been routed by the revolutionists. An expedition from the northern part of the State of Tobasco had landed under Prieta to march on Mendez. He is reported to be the prime mover. General Sanchezcochoa, an Orlegaist, has been arrested and imprisoned at San Luis Potosi. A movement is on foot in the State of Vera Cruz to detach several villages from that State and form a new one.

From all parts of the interior come reports of robberies, kidnapping and murders. Francisco Potosi is elected Governor of the State of Durango. The life politics of Puebla have ordered the suppressment of persons unable to pay their debts. Two Americans, named Cook and Davis, *en route* for Guaymas, were murdered by Mexicans. They were emigrants from Western Texas. Canales, Quiroga and Caravajal are organizing near Camargo, in Tamaulipas, preparatory to a revolution. The agents are in Brownsville, purchasing arms and munitions of war. Troops have been sent from Matamoras to fight them wherever found.

An expedition which started under Felix P. Gall to invade Aldana failed, owing to desertion. Cortina has threatened a revolution of Juan Jasede. La Gorza has not given possession of the gubernatorial seat of Tamaulipas, which he claims to have won in the last election.

SAN FRANCISCO, February 9.—Advices to February 1st from Sinaloa state that dissatisfaction was caused by the Legislature proving in favor of General Domingo Rubi for Governor. The general Government sent a Colonel to reconcile the contestants, but before the settlement of the affair was effected, Corona was recalled to Guadalajara as a check on Lozada, whereupon Martinez declared the election unconstitutional, and assumed command *ad interim*.

In Mazatlan none of the officials were removed, and no changes made except in the Governorship. Rubi was at Concordia with a thousand men. Martinez's force is small, but better supplied. There has been no collision yet. The foreign merchants of Mazatlan favor Martinez's expectations, inducing him to allow several cargoes of European goods now due to enter at reduced duties. The difficulty is purely local. Both Martinez and Rubi are supporters of Juarez.

ALABAMA.

Result of the Election Yet in Doubt---White Vote Very Small.

MONTGOMERY, February 8.—The full vote of Monigomery, Macomb, Lee, Elmun, Tallahassee, Chambers, Bullock and Coosa counties foot up 13,159, of which all are negroes but 77. The vote cast in the same counties on the Convention question was 17,580. The registered vote is 30,043. It is too soon to estimate, but the indications are the Constitution will be defeated.

ATLANTA, Ga., February 7.

Our news from Alabama are very encouraging to-night. Our vote in Mobile county is more than 1,000 greater than the vote for the convention. We have done as well as at the last election in Madison county (Huntsville), and as well in Montgomery county. I have returns from a dozen other large counties, all showing an increase on the other vote. Three counties are in the middle division of the State. If other sections do as well—and returns from Mobile and Huntsville indicate they will—then we have gained the constitution beyond a doubt.

A dispatch I have received to-day from Florence and Northern Alabama says: "We are doing very well, so far as heard from, amongst the loyal white men among the mountains, and will hold our own on the October vote. The rebels have made the most tremendous efforts to keep voters from the polls."

Gen. Hayden has, it is said, either purposely or by mistake, appointed bitter enemies of the Government and of reconstruction on the boards of registration, and these have thrown every possible obstacle in the way of voters; have refused to put loyal men on the lists, and have registered illegal voters in hundreds of cases. I have examined rebel newspapers from all parts of Alabama, and the abuse and falsehoods, denunciations and threats, with which their columns are filled are absolutely appalling.

Gen. Meade's order continues the election to-morrow, on account of the rains and storms of the first two days.

Nothing definite as to the general result can be made before Monday next. If we have lost the constitution, it will not be because the people have rejected it, but because they have been bullied and cheated out of their votes. I believe, however, we have succeeded. If so, it is, under the circumstances, a wonderful triumph.

MOBILE, February 9.—The election was concluded yesterday. It passed off quite orderly. The vote of this city was whites 89, colored 4,910.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, February 8, 1868.

FIRE ON JOHN STREET.

A fire last night destroyed the building No. 87 John street, occupied by W. & B. Douglass, pump manufacturers; loss $25,000, insured, and A. Whalen, importer of hardware and cutlery, loss $30,000, insured. Loss on both buildings, owner's name not stated, $40,000, partly insured. Two firemen were injured by falling walls.

The building was owned by Parke, Bro. & Co. The loss of Payne & Co. is reported at $300,000, but this is probably exaggerated. They are fully insured.

PRESIDENT OF BROWN UNIVERSITY.

The corporation of Brown University elected Rev. Alexis Caswell, D.D., President in place of Rev. Dr. Sears, resigned.

BISHOP WILLIAMS,

Of the Catholic Diocese of Massachusetts, declined to allow high requiem masses in Worcester for the souls of Allen, Larkin and O'Brien.

X. X.

BOSTON.

National Commercial Convention.

Fourth Day's Proceedings.

Consolidation of Railroad Lines.

BOSTON, February 8.—The Commercial Convention was opened this morning with prayer by Rev. R. L. Collier, of Chicago. Gen. Walbridge, of New York, offered a series of resolutions, which he moved should lie on the table and be the order for action of the convention next year. The resolutions affirm the duty of Congress to foster all projects for the improvement of present lines of communication, and of those which shall be projected, particularly by land or water, between the Atlantic and Mississippi and Pacific, and that facilities, as far as possible, be afforded to enable through lines from North to South, and East to West, to have double tracks. Another resolution recommends a combination of railroads to secure a uniform system of freight for through trains and connecting trains at a speed of ten miles an hour, and favor the use of the same tracks for passengers and light and costly freights, and of others for heavy freights.

The currency and finance report was then called up for discussion.

The report of the Committee on Currency and Finance, submitted yesterday, was warmly and ably discussed. Two amendments were accepted, the first recommending Congress to forbid National banks selling any gold received as interest for bonds pledged for their circulation until such time as the entire amounts received by law, kept by banks, shall be made up of coin; the second, that the bonds of the United States already issued are exempted by law from taxation, and having thus been issued, it would be a violation of law if Congress imposed taxes upon them now, and a breach of faith on the part of the government. The report of the Committee was then adopted.

A resolution was unanimously adopted reaffirming the adherence of the convention to the principles of national honor as indicated in the report of the Finance Committee. Three rousing cheers were given for the national honor—votes of thanks passed to the officers of the convention, Boston Board of Trade and the State and city authorities, for attention and hospitalities, and after an eloquent closing address by President Fox, the convention adjourned *sine die.*

RECONSTRUCTION.

Mississippi Convention.

JACKSON, February 8.—In the Convention to-day, the reports of the Printing Committee, received some days ago, were adopted. A resolution requiring all committees to report by the 14th inst. was referred. A resolution requiring the report of the Committee on Destitution, as adopted yesterday, to be forwarded to General Gillem, with the request that he issue the necessary orders, was adopted.

South Carolina Convention.

CHARLESTON, February 8.—The Convention is still discussing the bill of rights. Nothing of public importance transpir ed.

Georgia Convention.

ATLANTA, February 8.—In the Convention to-day, an ordinance was passed to provide for defraying the expense of the Convention by a tax of one-tenth of one per cent. on all taxable property, to be collected on or before the 1st of May, 1868.

A resolution to expel A. A. Bradley, a negro delegate, was made the special order for Tuesday.

The second section of the report of the Committee on Franchise, as adopted, recognizes no distinction between the races, and provides that all voters shall have paid their taxes. If challenged, he shall swear that their vote is not affected by any reward received or expected, nor have they given or promised any reward, nor made any threat to prevent any person from voting.

The Virginia Convention.

RICHMOND, February 8.—In the Convention to-day, the section authorizing the Legislature to create a Bureau of Agriculture and Immigration was adopted. A long debate occurred on the immigration part of the section, which was both opposed and urged on the Republican side. A Conservative member urged legislation to check the flow of negroes to Liberia to march on Mendez. He is reported to be the prime mover. General Sanchezcochoa, an Orlegaist, has been arrested and imprisoned at San Luis Potosi. A movement is on foot in the State of Vera Cruz to detach several villages from that State and form a new one.

North Carolina Convention.

RALEIGH, February 8.—The Convention proceedings to-day were of little interest. The Committee on Privileges and Elections reported in favor of seating Martin, of Yadkin, a conservative. The bill of rights was discussed, but without definite action.

Florida Convention.

TALLAHASSEE, February 8.—The Minority Convention held three sessions to-day, in secret. Five more have signed the constitution. Many of them have done so reluctantly, having come to the conclusion they have been proceeding regardless of law and precedent. The Convention has concluded not to adjourn until they hear from General Meade. They have nominated a State ticket, consisting of Mc-Kellinge for Governor; Sanford, colored, for Lieutenant Governor, and Mr. Gibbs, colored, for member of Congress. The regular Republican Nominating Convention is called by the State Committee for the 18th inst. Meanwhile the contestants, but before the settlement of the affair was effected, Corona was recalled to Guadalajara as a check on Lozada, whereupon Martinez declared the election unconstitutional, and assumed command *ad interim*.

In Mazatlan none of the officials were removed, and no changes made except in the Governorship. Rubi was at Concordia with a thousand men. Martinez's force is small, but better supplied. There has been no collision yet. The foreign merchants of Mazatlan favor Martinez's expectations, inducing him to allow several cargoes of European goods now due to enter at reduced duties. The difficulty is purely local. Both Martinez and Rubi are supporters of Juarez.

CHINA.

Great Fire in Hong Kong---British Consulate Attacked---Great Battles in the North.

SAN FRANCISCO, February 8.—Arrived, bark Zephyr, from Hong Kong, with advices to December 10th. A fire in Hong Kong, November 27th, destroyed all the Jerves, a part of Bonham street. Numerous buildings were blown up to prevent the spreading of the conflagration. The united efforts of the police, sailors and soldiers extinguished the flames before they extended further than two or three hundred yards on Queen's road. Several soldiers were injured and a number of Chinese killed. The district embraced between Queen's road and Praya, from the cross roads to the Harbor Master's office, was wholly destroyed. The fire originated on the Praya, adjoining Schelhoss & Co.

The British consulate was attacked by a party of armed Chinese on the night of December 1st. Two assailants were shot, and it is supposed killed. It is thought the object was to murder Cooper, as no attempt to plunder was made.

The subject of the approaching revision of treaties with China is actively discussed in commercial circles. The war in the North between the Imperialists and rebel forces was vigorously waged. Full particulars are received of the great battles at Shantung and Promlo, in which the Imperialists defeated the rebel army, estimated at 50,000. The Imperialists were defeated in several engagements subsequently, with heavy loss.

FROM SALEM, OHIO.

Important Decision---Enlargement of Village Boundaries.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

SALEM, OHIO, February 7, 1868.

In the case of Samuel Street *et. al.* vs. the Incorporated Village of Salem, a decision was rendered this morning by Judge Freas, of Canton, in favor of the defendants. This was an action brought to restrain the village from extending her limits, which the Council undertook to do about one year since, and which has been in litigation since that time. The limits are now, as established by the decision, two miles from east to west, one and one-half miles north to South Sides, and ends parallel. This case has elicited considerable interest throughout the State, as a great many villages are contemplating the extension of their borders, and this was to be a test case. Money was used freely by those opposed to the extension, but right was might in this case. Great credit is due Mayor Lockard and his Council for the energy and tact displayed in managing the case. Our Village now has a population of over 5,000, and one of the best schools in the State.

X. X.

ARMY OF CUMBERLAND.

THE MEETING IN CINCINNATI.

Speeches of Gens. Sherman and Thomas.

The Banquet of the Society of the Army of the Cumberland, in Cincinnati, on Friday evening, was a very pleasant affair. Among the speeches—and there were several—were those of General Sherman and General Thomas.

GENERAL SHERMAN'S SPEECH.

General Sherman—"Mr. Chairman—Before commencing my five minutes, I want to define my position a little clearer. I do not conceive myself to be a guest here. I am a member of this army. [Great cheers.] If there is an older soldier of the Army of the Ohio or Cumberland here, I don't know it. [Laughter.] I know that General Johnson and General Wool, who sit on my right, were appointed to the army at my special request. Gen. Thomas I admit to be; but I claim to be of the Army of the Ohio, of the Army of the Cumberland, and of the Army of the Tennessee. I care not in which you throw me, my title there is heritage enough for me, but bound together all in one, the grand army of the West, it is a title of which I am proud indeed! But were I to do full justice, this grand army of the West, this combined army which filled so large a share in the after part of the war, I would probably go a little beyond the five minutes, to which I will restrict myself. [Cries of, 'Go on.'] But I assure you, gentlemen, that I have been more favored by kind Providence, and by you, yourselves, than the world at large knows; for a great deal of work was done before I was called upon to command you in chief. The first three years of the war I now regard, and every old officer will bear me out in this, that the first three years of the war were years of schooling. You were all as brave as you are now; you knew probably as much of the affairs of the world as you now know, but you had not in habit, in form, fashioned yourselves into that school which we term the soldier, where you act from habit, from impulse, from association, rather than from thought. Therefore the first three years of the war were years of schooling; and every writer of military affairs tells you that, in France, in Prussia, and wherever you go, three years of strong, patient labor and study are necessary to make a soldier. All this you had not, and I succeeded to this great command. And how dutiful you all were; how patient at the task! I had Thomas as a center. [Wild applause.] And he had to back him fifty thousand clever men. [Laughter.]—On his right was McPherson. [Cheers.] I knew him, probably, better than most who are here. I had known him ten years, socially and as an officer; and a braver, nobler and gentler man never served any land. [Applause.] He is not here, but he looks down upon us now, and I know he is pleased to see you here together in social communion, and I know when you speak his name in kindness and praise, it will reach him where he now is. [Sensation and applause.] And I tell you when I had McPherson on my right I knew all was right there, and I had to look to the other end to see that there was Schofield, with a large brain and a firm standing up on his feet that nothing can move but the stroke of death. Where he was was security. Then, with three such armies in the great trinity of war, how could I fail? No danger, no amount of distance, no amount of obstruction, weighed a feather in my mind, for I knew they could all be overcome.

"Therefore, my friends, we all went in from the head to the foot with a determination that victory was bound to be ours. [Cheers.] And that resolution gained victory. [Cheers.] That resolution carried us wherever we turned our columns; whether over the mountains about Chattanooga; whether over the vast region of pine which lay between us and the sea; whether to the north or the south;—for every soldier of you thought you were going to Richmond, and you were right. Every movement we made from the day we left Chattanooga was an attack upon Richmond. [Cheers and laughter.] And now, my friends, to dwell upon things of this kind, so familiar to you all, would be only recounting time and stirring you. [Cries of 'no, no,' 'go on,' 'we've got past the sea, now,' laughter and cheers.] But I assure you, gentlemen, when you consult all these events together, and spread them before you, and compare the deeds of the Greek and the French, the German and the English, you will be amazed at the minuteness of their knowledge. They have studied every march, and every movement of the fight, and I have often felt that we were the last men of the highest intelligence abroad who studied our movements, and can tell you to-day more than we ourselves know of their bearing upon the history of the world. I do believe that the movements of the great Army of the West, after it came together as a whole, after it operated as one body of men in perfect harmony in all parts, inspired with a single purpose, that of preserving the Union, was only skillfully conceived, but skillfully executed; and I have often, in my conversation with foreign officers, explained the movement by which we left Chattanooga, fought the battle of Atlanta, and I believe that it was as well executed as the march upon Sadowa this summer. We withdrew an army corps one hundred miles from a line of investment of fifteen miles in length, and resumed a position in three columns without the loss of one man, and that in the presence of fifty thousand enemies. We then marched a thousand miles through the country we fought and never even had a man tried or executed by a court martial during that time. There never was a council-of-war held. So that, gentlemen, on the whole, I feel quite perfectly satisfied with the career of the armies of the Great West, or the great army of the West, whichever you please to call it, and if you are equally satisfied we certainly are in perfect harmony."

[The great General resumed his seat amid vociferous cheering.]

FORMER COMMANDERS.

Gen. Thruston responded to the toast to the former commanders of the Army of the Cumberland. He said: "There was a time when I was proud to follow in the wake of General Sherman, the great soldier who has preceded me; but I must confess I am at a loss when called upon to follow him to-night. However, experience has taught us that General Sherman is a pretty safe man to follow, and I believe I will try it."

General Thruston then proceeded to speak of Generals Buell and Rosecrans in high terms, and both of whom were well received. General Robert Anderson also received his attention and the applause of the listeners.

GENERAL GEORGE H. THOMAS.

General Cox here arose and said: "We now propose the health of the President of our Society, General Thomas."

Loud calls were made for the General, the audience rising to their feet and drinking his health with the wildest excitement.

General Thomas

The Daily Commercial

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1868.

THE COMMERCIAL is the largest daily paper in the State, and gives daily one-fourth more reading than any other paper in Pittsburgh. It is the only Pittsburgh paper that uses the telegraph liberally gives full market reports, and all the news of the day.

As proof of the estimate placed on the market reports of the COMMERCIAL, we will state that they are regularly copied by the New York Economist, Shipping List, Iron Age, and other papers of this character in that and other cities, and that leading English commercial papers and circulars regularly reprint them with credit. There is within five hundred miles, hardly an Iron Factory, Oil Refinery, or leading manufactory of any kind that is not a subscriber to the COMMERCIAL, principally because its reports are the only full and reliable given of the Pittsburgh markets.

IT is not improbable, after all, that the Constitution of Alabama has been carried and the Anti-Reconstructionists defeated. If so the State will at once wheel into line, to be followed by the others that revolted.

IT is no consequence to us how persistent any contemporary may be in its efforts to cause it to be understood that "the COMMERCIAL ridiculed Senator GRAHAM for his speech on the Connellsville Railroad Bill." We do think, however, that it would have been no more than simply just in that Senator, when he concluded it was worth his while to refer to the subject, had he said that what he complained of was by a correspondent writing on the spot. Other than that no "article" appeared in the COMMERCIAL, except in commendation of the Senator.

THE newest political rumor afloat here is that arrangements are on foot for a third party, to be composed of the Conservative Republicans who were turned out of the Republican State Convention, and much of the Conservative Democracy as may choose to come in. The Hon. Henry J. Raymond, Thurlow Weed, and other veterans of the same school, are said to be engineering the movement. A manifesto, setting forth their plans and principles, will make its appearance in the course of a few days. It is said, further more, that this new movement is intended not to operate against General Grant, but rather to render the election all the more certain for him, by the defection, between 40,000 and 50,000 majority against the Radicals. That is the programme, as it is outlined to me by a well-informed party.

So says a New York letter. We cannot believe that Mr. RAYMOND will suffer himself to get mixed up in any such thing. The Republican State Convention which met at Syracuse last week appears to have fairly expressed the sentiment of the party of the State. We have no doubt it did. If the gentlemen whose names are made use of in connection with the above have not already succeeded in scandalising themselves, they have but to go ahead to do so most thoroughly. As supporters of Gen. GRANT they should study their method better. We hope to be able to print an early contradiction of the above.

THERE is a hitch about letting off the tremendous broadside which the President has been preparing in reply to General GRANT's last letter. The Cabinet officers, or some of them, who were counted on to support Mr. JOHNSON, hesitate to testify. Their recollection of what transpired at the Cabinet meeting, when it is alledged General GRANT admitted he agreed to act so that Mr. JOHNSON could keep out Mr. STANTON, does not accord with the President's. Time is required to reconcile the disagreement; and some of the President's friends, it is said, advise him to publish nothing. It is not probable, however, that this advice will be accepted, as Mr. JOHNSON, smarting under the defeat he has experienced at the hands of General GRANT, is bent on getting in a rejoinder. It is probable that at least two members of the Cabinet will back him, though not as vigorously, it may be, as they were at first expected to do it. It is understood that General GRANT will have some important things to say pertinent to the subject, in his testimony before the Committee of the House, which testimony it is probable will be given to-day.

THE CONNELLSVILLE RAILROAD.

MR. HUGHART, the President of the Connellsville Railroad Company, has been summoned to Baltimore by the managers of the Baltimore and Ohio Company, to consult with them with reference to measures for the early construction of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad to Cumberland. We understand that there is every probability that the work will be put under contract at an early day. A combination of circumstances favor it, and the friends of the long delayed and many times baffled enterprise have excellent reasons for indulging the belief that under the present auspices it will be pushed to completion.

MR. JOHNSON THE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE.

Stranger things have happened. We are assured on entirely competent authority that a well digested plan was set in operation last week for bringing Mr. JOHNSON out in good earnest, as a competitor for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency, and we are assured also that not a few sagacious Democrats, since the publication of the correspondence with GRANT, have joined the movement; and, furthermore, that no small amount of confidence is entertained by them that the plan will succeed. All the machinery that can be set in motion through Executive patronage is to be at once, and old-line Democrats in considerable numbers have left Washington within the last few days to lend their influence to the scheme. The well-defined and by no means unimportant opposition to Mr. PENDLETON in the body of the party, but which as yet has concentrated on no one, is relied on to assist materially in developing Mr. JOHNSON as the coming man on the Democratic side, in the ensuing Presidential race. PENDLETON's nomination is by no means conceded; on the contrary, it is alleged that his strength, even in the West, where his friends claim he is strongest, is not what it has been represented. It is claimed that Ohio will not be a unit for him; while in Indiana and other States which have been extensively manipulated in his interest, the tide has already begun to ebb; and the plan is to give Mr. JOHNSON the benefit of the turn.

This, we are assured, and on good authority, as we have said, is the present outlook in the Democratic camp on the Presidential question.

DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

We have had many subjects of controversy with England—but never one of more inherent interest, or one involving more momentous practical consequences than the settlement of the Alabama claims. And there is another question pending, quite as important both theoretically and practically, viz.: The question involved in the premature concession of belligerent rights to the rebellious South. In truth the latter complaint lies at the root of the whole matter. In regard to the precipitate recognition of the Confederates as engaged in legitimate warfare instead of mere rebellion, one who had happened to be so situated as to observe directly the thoughts of the English middle class as indicated by their common conversation, might, perhaps, offer the following explanation; an explanation which will be found confirmed by a reference to old files of English newspapers. That the higher aristocracy of England have always been hostile to us needs no proof. Prejudice of rank and regard for their own position and interests will satisfactorily account for their hostility. But the minds of the great middle-class—embracing the lower gentry—the rich manufacturers—the large property holders of plebeian birth and the members of the legal and clerical professions, were ten years ago filled with profound distrust of republicanism. They knew that the vast population below them, with their centres and strongholds in the manufacturing towns—but really spread over all the islands—were daily growing more and more discontented with their place in the social state, and were daily increasing in knowledge of a sort—of their own actual insignificance and possible power for example. Having stated this fact we have implied that these well to do people were haunted, with a great dread, a dread of much the same kind, and sometimes nearly of the same degree with the times nearly of the same degree with the times nearly of the slaveholders or dread which haunted the slaveholders of our own South for years before it became too intolerable for quiet endurance. It was also known that to the people of these lower classes the Great Republic of the West, with more or less distinctness, loomed as an earthly paradise. Its existence was to them a prohibition of despair, and a call to live on in good hope for their children if not for themselves. The feeling with which these poor people regarded us was strikingly shown in Lancashire, in Glasgow, and in many other places during the late rebellion, as our readers remember. Hence the sentiments of disgust and almost of detestation with which outspoken Americans and American institutions were looked upon by many Englishmen interested in things as they were. Our countryman going to his "old home" full of delightful memories and friendly feeling, was often shocked and horrified to find himself regarded and treated almost as an enemy. Recognized as an American, he was an object of distrust, while silent; and if his Americanism showed itself, as it was apt to do, he was at once made to feel his inferiority as a republican. Now real ignorance of our country and its history was met with—evidently the ignorance which deemed itself "bliss," because it is folly to know deformity. Oftener it was affected ignorance, or the ignorance of gentility. All these barriers to unconstrained intercourse were sometimes broken down by affectation on the other side. Familiarity with the Sketch-book occasionally proved useful to the young traveler, and by virtue of his knowledge of the poetical side of old English customs, he was allowed to be an exceptional character among his countrymen, a man of fine gentlemanly instincts, able to appreciate the excellencies of church and king, though unfortunate in his birthplace. Then it is only fair to add that without either the hypocrisy of putting on the islander, or the meanness of sinking the American, the visitor sometimes found access to the Englishman's heart. In general, however, there can be no doubt that profound distrust of us and our country was very prevalent. Hence, disbelief in the beneficent working of our institutions. Hence incredulity in regard to propositions for the improvement of international intercourse made by our diplomatists. Hence the assurance, quite common, that our Government and individual citizens were always openly, or secretly engaged in the work of democratic propagandism, whatever protestations of neutrality in old world politics we might make. Hence the confident expectation entertained even by some intelligent English writers that we might any day turn out our whole naval power, national and mercantile, to prey upon the shipping of all other nations.

In view of all actual American abominations, and in anticipation of these prospective horrors, there was one comfort, which was the certainty that we would, in the course of no long time, take to destroying ourselves. Countless books had been written to show what coarse, passionate, uncomely creatures we had become under the influence of our Democratic institutions, and the likelihood of our self-extermination had often been pointed out. Slavery in particular had been indicated as the magazine by the explosion of which we might be expected to vanish from beneath the sun. Southern diplomatists had been active in preparing the minds of men in office and Cabinet Ministers for what was to come. American statesmen and journalists with Northern sympathies, had spoken and written in undecided tone as to the constitutional right of the Government to coerce States wishing to secede. The party in power in England sustained by the classes indicated above wished the South to secede that they might thus render the American Government less formidable. "The United States are too powerful," was the declaration of Lord PALMERSTON. They wished the Confederate States to establish and maintain their separate and independent position as a counterpoise to the North, which would limit its power as a nation.

At the time when England granted belligerent rights to the Confederates, a decisive and unmistakable statement of policy and purpose towards the revolted South was momentarily expected from Washington. And the determination to set in the matter before the arrival of Mr. ADAMS, was so obvious and so little a secret that it was censured as undignified by more than one English newspaper. The truth is, they were so confident of the ultimate success of the insurgents, even though the North should attempt to coerce them, that courtesy or deference to the sensibilities of the American Government had already ceased to be a weighty consideration.

Our object has been simply to state the more interesting of the two questions between the American and English governments now waiting for settlement, by recalling in outline the facts of the case. The question to which we refer, is the one which that no small amount of confidence is entertained by them that the plan will succeed. All the machinery that can be set in motion through Executive patronage is to be at once, and old-line Democrats in considerable numbers have left Washington within the last few days to lend their influence to the scheme. The well-defined and by no means unimportant opposition to Mr. PENDLETON in the body of the party, but which as yet has concentrated on no one, is relied on to assist materially in developing Mr. JOHNSON as the coming man on the Democratic side, in the ensuing Presidential race. PENDLETON's nomination is by no means conceded; on the contrary, it is alleged that his strength, even in the West, where his friends claim he is strongest, is not what it has been represented. It is claimed that Ohio will not be a unit for him; while in Indiana and other States which have been extensively manipulated in his interest, the tide has already begun to ebb; and the plan is to give Mr. JOHNSON the benefit of the turn.

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Our object has been simply to state the more interesting of the two questions between the American and English governments now waiting for settlement, by recalling in outline the facts of the case. The question to which we refer, is the one which England is unwilling to submit to arbitration. In whatever manner, we earnestly trust that both difficulties may be adjusted without rupture of the peaceful relations now subsisting between the nations. We think there is reason for satisfaction in the fact that Mr. SEWARD is still in the position to employ his high qualifications of wisdom and experience in the settlement of these important affairs.

THE Insurance companies doing business in Chicago have advanced their rates twenty-five per cent, whereat the press of that city are exceedingly wrathful; to-wit, the following from the *Tribune*: "Do the one hundred and thirty insurance companies doing business here propose to collect the $1,300,000 which they lost by the fire on Lake street, by apportioning it in increased premiums upon the $250,000,000 or $300,000,000 of insured property in this city? Do they propose to make the people of this city their own underwriters, and collect of them a handsome bounty besides?"

The presumption is that the insurance companies understand the exact situation and know what they are about. It has come to be observed that in Chicago, property well insured is extremely liable to burn—a most excellent reason for being cautious about the rates.

JOHN ROBINSON, our venerable friend of the agricultural department of the *Tribune*, is in Florida cultivating his health and observing the Constitutional Convention. He is a deeply disgusted man; vide the following:

> Such is the situation of the Florida Convention at the close of the eleventh day. To the question, "What have they done?" there is but one answer: "Nothing; nothing but wrangle." Not for principle, nor on account of any wrong or grievance, but because a few bad men have stirred up strife against and hatred of some other men—men who have got to much influence; hence they have chosen a time, I had supposed the Semitonic war was over in Florida. From what I have witnessed this week I suppose I must have been mistaken. I shall witness one more day's work with tomahawk and scalping knives, and if the Convention then adjourns I will not—nay, in a row. I will adjourn to some other part of Floridaa. I feel disgraced by remaining in such compan.

THE New York penitentiaries cost for their support a great deal of money. The cost to the State in excess of income has been, in twenty Years, $4,787,100 and the real expense of each convict, above earnings, has averaged $1,000 a year at Sing Sing, $700 at Auburn, and $250 at Clinton, and this while in very many of the prisons in other States all expenses have been paid.

The simple explanation is, the State prisons of New York, like the canals, are run as a political machine, the first object being to make money for those who happen to have the control. The only wonder is the exhibit is as favorable as it is for the State.

AS centres of trade New York and Chicago promise to stand first. Philadelphia must always stand subordinate to New York. Cincinnati, Louisville and New Orleans, however their growth may go forward, will be secondary points. On this side of the Rocky Mountains two cities only will rank with London and Paris as capitals of the world.—*Chicago Tribune.*

Why two cities, I instead of one, and that one Chicago? Such modesty will never do, and the exhibition of it is altogether unlike Chicago. Strike higher, man, and don't admit that there ever can be your equal!

A CORRESPONDENT calls our attention to the fact that among the crowd of gazers at the obscene prints which are displayed now-a-days on nearly every news-stand may often be seen young girls. This is a sad and shameful truth. What a terrible commentary it is upon the corruption of public morals, which the panderers to the most depraved passions are fostering in the community! Is there no law for such wretches? Can the police do nothing to rid us of these infamous pests?—N. Y. *Tribune.*

DITTO of Pittsburgh. Where is Mayor Blackmore and his new broom?

GARIBALDI has written a letter to a friend in Providence, (R. I.) thanking him for the proffer of hospitality, in which he says: "We will not yet despair of our country's destiny, but will continue in our glorious undertaking for the entire redemption of Italy."

The Tax Laws of the State.

We have received a pamphlet copy of the report of the Auditor General, Secretary of the Commonwealth and State Treasurer, on the tax laws of the State, made in compliance with the joint resolutions of the Legislature, approved April 12th, 1867, relative to revising, collating and digesting the tax laws of Pennsylvania. The Commissioners report that, under the resolutions, they had no authority to change or modify, but simply to digest existing laws—a matter which they regret, as there are some defects in the present system which nothing short of a radical change can remedy. In regard to the school taxes, it was not deemed advisable to disturb the existing system, especially as the commissioners appointed to revise the civil code will necessarily act upon the whole law on the subject of common schools. Nor has it been thought proper to interfere with taxation for municipal purposes, which is exclusively regulated by local and special laws. The subject of township rates and levies is so interwoven in the county system, that it was deemed best to retain it in the same general law. Six several bills have been proposed, and are submitted in the report, to revise, amend and consolidate existing laws regulating—1. Enrolment tax. 2. The assessment and collection of State taxes, and county and township rates and levies. 3. State taxes upon offices, on process, and on commissions. 4. Taxing corporations, brokers and bankers. 5. The licensing of foreign insurance companies. Supplement to an act to consolidate existing laws for the collection and assessment of State taxes, and county and township rates and levies. As a general rule, the classification of subjects, and the arrangement of subjects, are the same as in Brightley's Digest. In most cases, the sections of existing laws have been incorporated into the proposed bills without change, but some modifications are found necessary to prevent repetition, contradiction or obscurity.

The proposed law, regulating enrolment tax, is to be executed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and the three in relation to tax on officers, process and commissions, on corporations, and on license of foreign insurance companies, are to be executed by the Auditor General and State Treasurer. We quote as follows from the report:

> The new law for the assessment of State and county taxes, having to be enforced by the various local authorities, and by a more complicated machinery, some further elucidation is necessary; and especially, in view of the proposed supplement thereto. It appears, in addition, that the subjects embraced in this last mentioned law and supplement, are now regulated by sixty-eight different enactments, covering a period of eighty-seven years from the act of 1st March, 1780, down to that of 10th April, 1867. The effort has been made, in the bills submitted, to collate, revise, and consolidate all the provisions of these sixty-eight statutes now in force, into one harmonious system; and it is intended and proposed that all former laws on these subjects shall be repealed.

The radical defects in our system for the collection and assessment of taxes, as developed from information obtained from the several County Commissioners and Treasurers throughout the State, are alluded to in the report. The following remarks on this subject, although not new to our readers (as we have on several occasions had occasion to direct attention to these same defects), are quoted to show that the Commissioners have stated the case fully and fairly to the Legislature.

> So manifest and universal are the inequalities in our present assessments, they vitiate our whole system. Taxation, to be just, should be equal; and it is conceded by all who know anything on this subject, that this great end has never been attained. The assessments made, every item of property shall be valued at "the actual value thereof, and at such rates and prices for which it would command at a bona fide sale." Yet these plain provisions of the statute, so indispensable to a just system of taxation, are uniformly disregarded, and it is usual to assess property at from one-fifth to one-third and one-half its real value. That law or laws are enacted after year, to utterly disregard the law, would seem incredible, had the fact not been continually demonstrated to every tax-payer in the State. Many causes may have operated to produce this result; but it cannot be doubted that the evils and temptations incident to the elective franchise lie at the bottom of this perjured burdain of injustice and wrong. It is believed a due regard for the rights and interests of the people requires a total abolition of this great system, and the substitution of something better. Whether assessments should be left, as now, to the some other authority, under such regulations as the Legislature might see proper to impose, is respectfully submitted as well worthy the consideration of careful consideration.

The effort in the present system of collecting taxes by township collectors, instead of by one collector for each county, is highly commended. It has led to the abolition of township, ward and borough collectors, for State and county taxes, and to confer the necessary power to discharge the duties upon the county officers of the respective counties. The system proposed has long been in use in other States, and has worked well. Our system has proved expensive, inefficient and unsatisfactory, and is the subject of general complaint. By an act, approved the 4th of April, 1851, the proposed system was introduced into the county of Venango; but, like many other laws, some ten different enactments, it has been extended to the counties of Beaver, Bucks, Carbon, Cumberland, Franklin, Jefferson, Luzerne, Lycoming, Mifflin and Monroe. The same system, substantially, has also been extended to Allegheny and Philadelphia, and in no instance has it ever been abandoned, after trial. In all the counties in which the new system is in operation the expenses of collection have been reduced from fifty thousand dollars, for the several townships and districts (as has been proved from returns made), to about twenty-five thousand dollars, for the county, or a saving of twenty-five thousand dollars annually. The system has been settled for several preceding years. To remedy these evils, it is proposed to establish, throughout the State, the general tax law, herewith submitted, with such modifications as may be found necessary to prevent repetition, contradiction or obscurity.

> It simply consolidates into one harmonious whole the provisions of the several laws now in force in the counties named, as proposed by an act of 1851, on the subject. So convinced are the undersigned that this law, if duly enforced, will have the incalculable advantage of a uniform system of collection into the general law, obviating on the one hand the necessity for an unwillingness to assume authority not conferred, and an apprehension that, by reason of the slowness of our present system of collection, the whole subject matter to share the fate of sundry former reports and recommendations of the revenue and tax laws of this Commonwealth.

The report, on the whole, seems to have been prepared with great care and ability, and it is but reasonable to expect that the Legislature will give the several bills, and the recommendations and suggestions appended thereto, that consideration which the importance of the subject demands.

Books and Literature in England.

The Queen's second book goes off like hot cakes, it is said. The edition, 150,000 copies, will net the royal author £10,000, which, with her fortune of £4,000,000 besides, will make her comparatively comfortable. We have the authority of a London letter for saying that a wretched idiot named Neill or O'Neill (I forget which) left her £500,000 in one lump some years ago, not one penny of which, you may be sure, has her most thrifty Majesty ever touched. The Prince of Wales *owes* £40,000 to his upholsterer, to say nothing of other trademen. Why doesn't *he* write a book? Because he can't—not even such as the Queen's. Genius is not always transmitted from mother to children, you know. The same letter writer informs us that some other writers are making a bad thing of it just now. Tennyson, for instance, was paid £250 for that short poem in the January number of *Good Words*, called "The Victim." You never heard of such a price, I think I hear you say. No, nor any one else. The poet laureate also received £20 for the half-dozen rather childish stanzas in *Once a Week*, "On a Spiteful letter." Mr. Gladstone receives £100 a number for his milk-and-watery effusions in *Good Words*. These men are advertisements to a magazine, and I suppose it would pay them well to give them anything they asked. Poor Mr. Hepworth Dixon will be disappointed in *his* book, *Spiritual Wives*. It is openly indecent; it is full of misstatements, and it has been badly *crunched* in the principal papers. There is an end of Mr. Dixon for the present.

MAIL MATTER BURNED.—A special dispatch to the COMMERCIAL announced the burning of a baggage car on the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railway, on Wednesday last, together with a quantity of mail matter. Later information states that there were thirty-five pouches of letter mail and one hundred bags of paper mail, all of which were consumed, with the exception of two or three sacks snatched from the car. The 11 o'clock A. M. train from the East failed to connect at Pittsburgh, and, in addition to its own, the mail from the previous train was put in this car, and was consequently destroyed. Of this, ten bags were Chicago mail, and its loss will be heavily felt by individuals interested. The full extent of the loss will probably never be known.

THE large increase of the public debt statement of this month over the last is accounted for by the very heavy payment of the semi-annual interest due on the 1st of January last on the five-twenty bonds, and the bonds of 1861, amounting to $25,000,000, and the falling off in the receipts from customs and internal revenue during the month. The warrants issued by the Treasury Department during the month of January last, to meet the requirements of the Government, amounted, in round numbers to the following sums:

Civil, Miscellaneous and Foreign Intercourse	$4,687,100
Interest on the Public Debt	29,815,200
Army	5,397,400
Navy	2,331,400
Interior, Pensions and Indians	1,568,700
Total	$43,799,800

The warrants issued for the redemption of the public debt are not included in the above.

AN Augusta correspondent of the Bangor, Maine, *Whig* has been visiting the Insane Asylum, and had a talk with some of the patients. He says: "While waiting, we were taken one side by a very gentlemanly-looking man, who stated to us that he was the Creator, and that if we should call on him in a hundred years from that date, he would make us over again. We thanked him very kindly, and promised to do so if we were in town. Then pointing to the sun, says, 'I made that, and hung it up there—but Josh Stevens yellow-balled it, and spoiled it, d—n him.'"

WASHINGTON specials say that Mr. Dickens has received to afford western people, when he comes among them, an opportunity to hear him delivered his readings at gold rates. The fluctuations of the gold market have induced him to make the change.

Glad to hear it! His dead brother's children out there on North Clark street will take either gold or greenbacks, so do not let Mr. D. defer reading for their benefit until the fluctuations of the gold market are over. He has waited for that day of quiet, too long already.—*Chicago Post.*

GOLD DISCOVERY.—The Tyrone, Pa., *Herald* says: "Mr. Sample Anderson, of this place, has discovered what is said to be a rich gold mine, near this place. Our jewelers can pronounce it nothing else. Nitric Acid produces no visible effect on the metal. So pile in, ye gold worshippers, to the new Eldorado."

Washington Topics and Gossip.

A COLDNESS AT THE START.

Mr. Thornton, the new British Minister, met Mr. Seward at a private reception last evening. It is reported that either one or the other of these diplomats, or a third party standing by, made some casual allusion to the critical relations between the British Government and that of the United States, whereupon Mr. Thornton, stroking his whiskers after the true British style, said to Mr. Seward words to this effect:

"I do not desire, sir, to have any trivial conversation with the Secretary of State in regard to the so-called Alabama claims, or any kindred subject. Whatever remarks I might make upon such matters I prefer to reduce to writing and submit at the proper time."

Mr. Thornton's manner while saying this is understood to have been so irritating as to induce Mr. Seward to respond, if not directly to Mr. Thornton, at least aside, substantially as follows:

"It would not be amiss for the Minister from Great Britain to return and obtain from her Majesty's Government at home such definite ideas upon matters now pending between the United States and Great Britain as would render him less ostentatiously discreet."

THE NEW BANK BILL.

Senator Henderson's Bank bill repealing the limitation clause to the Bank law, which is favorably considered by the Committee, is in consonance with the views given in these dispatches heretofore. To wit: That the Senate would do nothing further in regard to the currency than to add to the volume of National Bank circulation and reduce the greenbacks in proportion. This bill, however, goes to the extent of increasing the total volume of circulation about $50,000,000, provides for redemption in greenbacks, and also limits the reduction of legal-tenders to $250,000,000, and the consequent increase of National Bank notes to $550,000,000. This proposition will meet with strong opposition in the House from the greenback advocates, who argue that if we are to have any increase of currency it should be of that character; but many of them will, nevertheless, vote for it if they cannot get just what they want, for they had rather have the increase in this shape than not have it at all.

MR. DICKENS.

Dickens concluded his readings to-night with a brief speech, thanking the audience for their inspiring presence. The house has not been filled for a single night, tickets having been advertised at less than the regular rates for every day of the course. Speculators into whose hands Mr. Dickens's Washington agents succeeded in unloading, have severely blistered. The extensive deadheadism destroyed the value of their pasteboard.

TAXATION AND RETRENCHMENT.

A very encouraging feeling prevails among the leading financial men in Congress as to the result of the efforts for reduction of taxation and retrenchment in expenditure. The Appropriation Committee or the House have strong hope of being able to keep the bills substantially as free from "riders" of an expensive character as they are now. But the pressure for various interests is only just beginning to be felt, and as Senators always more extravagant than the House, it will be very extraordinary if the appropriations are kept within the limits originally reported. The Ways and Means Committee will certainly respond to the desire for taxation reduced, but it will be dangerous to do so unless the expenditures are proportionately reduced.

THE ANTI-NATIONAL BANK BILL.

The National Bank influence is beginning to be powerfully felt here, especially in opposition to the Randall Anti-National Bank Bill. The banks are always slow to wake up, but they can touch more effective chords than any other influence that reaches Washington. It is already felt in such a way as renders it very improbable whether the bill will ever get out of committee.

A prominent banker from Indiana, who was formerly a Democratic member of Congress from that State, now here, says there is a decided reaction in the West in the movements against the banks, and that the Randall Bill, at first looked upon favorably, is found to be really the first step toward an issue of paper money. It is also says the greenback candidate for the Presidency who hails from the West will be so badly beaten that he won't know he was a candidate.

THE SHERMAN FINANCE BILL.

The following is the full text of the substitute reported by Senator Sherman from the Finance Committee, for the bill providing for the funding of the national debt:

> *Be it enacted, etc.*, That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to issue registered or coupon bonds of the United States, in such form and of such denominations as he may prescribe, payable principal and interest in coin, and bearing interest at the rate of five per centum per annum, payable semi-annually, at the Treasury of the United States, in the payment of an equal amount of the interest quarterly; such bonds to be payable in forty years from date and to be redeemable in coin, at the pleasure of the United States, after ten years from date; to be exchanged for an equal amount in coin of all outstanding obligations of the United States, other than the existing five percentum bonds, and to be exchanged for such obligations, from time to time, in such manner and on such terms, not less than par, as the Secretary of the Treasury may deem most conducive to the interests of the government, and the said bonds and the proceeds thereof shall be exclusively used for the redemption, or for exchange as aforesaid, of the existing securities of the United States.
>
> SEC. 2. That the bonds issued under the first section of this act, shall be known as the "consolidated debt of the United States," and the duties, taxes and revenues from time to time in any form by or under State, municipal, or local authority; and the same and the interest thereon, and the income therefrom, shall be exempt from the payment of all taxes or duties to the United States other than such income tax as may be assessed upon other incomes; and in consideration of the reduction of the rate of interest provided for by this act there is hereby appropriated out of the proceeds of duties on imported goods annually an amount equal to one per centum on the bonds issued under this act, which sum shall be reserved and annually applied to the purchase or payment of the national debt.
>
> SEC. 3. That in addition to the sums necessary to pay the interest of the public debt of the United States, there is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, a sum which, including the said interest and maturing debt and the one per centum reserved as aforesaid, shall amount to $135,000,000 annually, which sum during each fiscal year, after the current fiscal year, shall be applied to the reduction of the public debt in such manner as may be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, or as Congress may hereafter direct; and such reduction shall be in lieu of the sinking fund provided by the fifth section of the act entitled "An act to authorize the issue of United States notes for the redemption of funding thereof, and for funding the floating debt of the United States," approved February 25, 1862.
>
> SEC. 4. That the several bonds of the United States bearing interest at the rate of six per centum per annum, and redeemable at the pleasure of the United States after five years from their date, commonly known as the five-twenty bonds, shall, after the expiration of five years from their date, at the option of the holders thereof, be exchanged for the bonds authorized by this act, and such as are now redeemable shall be presented for exchange on or before the first day of November next, and not thereafter, and the residue be presented within six months after the expiration of five years from their date and not thereafter, and such exchange shall be made at such places and under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe.
>
> SEC. 5. That the holders of any lawful money of the United States to the amount of one thousand dollars, or any multiple of one thousand dollars may convert the same into bonds of the like amounts authorized by the first section of this act, under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe; and any holder of any bonds provided for in the first section of this act may compel the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States and demand lawful money of the United States for the principal and the accruing interest thereon; and the Treasurer shall redeem the same in lawful money of the United States, unless the amount of United States bonds then outstanding shall be equal to $400,000,000; and such bond shall not be so redeemable after the United States have resumed the payment of coin on their notes.
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> SEC. 6. That any contract hereafter made specially payable in coin shall be made valid, and may be enforced according to its terms, anything in the several acts relating to United States notes to the contrary notwithstanding.

MR. JOHNSON HESITATES.

It seems to be generally understood that the President will not publish, at present, his letter in reply to Grant. If it does see light, it will not be in the shape originally settled upon by Mr. Johnson and his friends. Those who have seen it, say it was extremely bitter in its tone, and rather belligerent towards both Grant and Congress. In view of the action of the Reconstruction Committee, which was unexpected by Mr. Johnson, his friends has advised him to withhold the letter from the public. Another difficulty, it is stated, is that some member of the Cabinet, upon whom the President had counted to indorse his statements about Gen. Grant now refuse to do it, alleging that Mr. Johnson has made them too strongly. It is believed, however, that the real cause of the refusal of the President to publish the letter is the investigation entered upon by the Reconstruction Committee.

A Name Deservedly Praised.

In the address of welcome, at the meeting of the Army of the Cumberland, in Cincinnati, Thursday last, the following just mention of an illustrious name occurs: "Another name completes the list of commanders of the Army of the Cumberland, in the mention of which I am already anticipated—General Geo. H. Thomas. We rejoice in his presence with us to-day. He was the back-bone of that army always. He grew finally to be the head. He was with it from the beginning to the end—from the opening victory of Mill Spring to the final triumph at Nashville. May he remain with us yet for a long time to come! As Abraham Lincoln expect a Scotch, so he always more extravagant than the House, it will be very extraordinary if the appropriations are kept within the limits originally reported. The Ways and Means Committee will certainly respond to the desire for taxation reduced, but it will be dangerous to do so unless the expenditures are proportionately reduced.

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The Daily Commercial

FINANCE MINISTER AND THE CURRENCY—NO VI.

The secretary circulation becomes more rapid, men become more prosperous and more free, and the State grows in wealth, strength and power, as the circulating note, readily exchangeable for coin, takes more and more place of the coin itself. Still more rapid is the growth of all as that higher currency of credits, upon which are based the checks, the drafts, the clearing-houses, and other machinery for economizing the use of money, tends to supplant both the metals and the note; every movement in that direction as much indicating progress as does the substitution of the wagon for the pack horse; the locomotive, in its turn, supplanting both horse and wagon. For speed and economy the highest form of currency almost emulates the electric telegraph, the circulating note finding its correspondent in the postman of modern days, and the precious metals in the messenger of olden times, when the public postman had as yet scarcely made his appearance on the stage.

Electricity and steam need the curb. So does the highest form of currency. The wagon horse needs the spur. So does that description of currency which takes the form of circulating notes. Crises, public and private, come when the former is left wholly uncontrolled. Stagnation and weakness follow in the train of measures preventing development in direction of the latter. That such is the case is proved by every page of our financial history, yet do our legislative records present a constant series of efforts for prohibiting the use of a note and thus compelling the use of the metals, a course of proceeding just as philosophical as would be one that should look to forbidding wagons, lest they might lessen the demand for pack-horses. Time and again has it been proposed that our people should be prevented from giving or taking any note of less denomination than $10 or $20. As often have they been forbidden to avail themselves of the services of any that should be less than $5; and yet, despite of all opposition, the note has held its ground, and grown in public favor. Not only so, but it must continue so to be, despite the recent declaration of our honorable Secretary, that to all systems under which "circulating notes are issued" he finds such "grave objections," that "if there were none in existence in the United States he would hesitate to recommend or to indorse the most perfect that had ever been designed."

Greately admiring the *credit* which so supplants both the note and the metals that the use of either almost ceases to be "a necessity," he thus strongly opposes the note which constitutes the intermediate step between the metals and the credits. Unable to recommend the dangerous wagon, he greately admires the safety and celerity of the locomotive and its train. Common sense, however, teaches that as the wagon is useful as preparation for the engine, so the note is needed as preparation for the credit, and that both are evidences of advancing civilization.

Beyond the Atlantic there is no country that has so much as Scotland tended towards substitution of the readily transferable note for the slow-moving metals, yet is there none that less has suffered from financial crises of its own creation. Directly the reverse of this, we find in England a constant series of regulations as to who might, or might not, issue notes, and as to the minimum value of such as might be issued, the whole at last culminating in an absurd and preposterous system that had, in its little more than twenty years of existence, given to the world no less than three financial crises, each more severe than that by which it had been preceded; and the last so greatly so that recovery therefrom has scarcely as yet commenced. By that law it was provided that the curb should be used where the spur had most been needed, leaving at the mercy of banks and bankers that high currency, created for their own especial use and profit, in relation to which control was really required, while shocking and controlling that inferior one with the use of which all seek to dispense as far as is consistent with the convenient effectuation of their exchanges. Such having been its necessary tendencies, the extraordinary expansions and contractions that have attended its brief existence offer no cause for wonder.

At home, in the New England States, there was presented for examination a banking system directly the reverse of that of England, the most free, the most natural, and therefore the most stable and useful, of any the world had ever known. Nowhere had currency been so cheaply furnished. In none had redemption been so uniform. Instead, however, of studying it, the originators of our present system studied carefully that of England, finally adopting it, with the addition of new and burdensome restrictions in reference to that inferior currency which most was needed, and leaving, as in England, wholly unchecked that superior one to which we had in all the past been indebted for every financial crisis with which the country had been afflicted.

Bad as was this law itself, the danger that it threatened was intensified by the organization under it that followed, the then Comptroller of the Currency, and now Secretary, having applied the spur in all those portions of the country in which the curb had theretofore been needed, while reserving this latter for those of them in which institutions of credit least existed, and in which their careful nurture was most required. Hence the situation in which he now finds himself, face to face with a great monopoly whose power increases with each and every of his efforts at its limitation.

Desiring now to reach resumption, we must wholly change our system, ceasing to use the spur in that only portion of the country in which the curb is needed—the North and East —and declining to apply this latter in the centre—the South and West—in all of which the prosperity of the people and strength of the State would greately be promoted by increased facilities of exchange.

Circulation demands to be re-established throughout the Union, and to that end we need to calm down the excitement which exists in close neighborhood of the heart; at the same time adopting measures tending to stimulate the body and the limbs that are now so nearly torpid. That such measures may be adopted it is needed that our legislators begin to appreciate the folly of a system that leaves to banks, bankers, and "speculators," the entire and absolute control of that superior currency whose power for good or evil so closely resembles that of electricity, while refusing to permit the miner and the laborer, the mechanic and the farmer, to determine for themselves how much of the inferior one they will carry in their pockets.

The road by which we now travel is, to the people at large, a painful one, and one by which resumption never can be reached. That by which we should travel, though somewhat long, would be traveled joyfully by all but those who are now financially and politically so largely profiting by the general distress. The Treasury forces have been long arrayed on the side of these latter, and hence the weakness of the people and the State. It is for Congress now to see that this no longer be the case.

C.

AN ATROCIOUS LETTER.—We do not believe a more atrocious epistle than the following ever defiled paper. It is from the electoral Prince of Hesse Cassell, and refers to the Hessians in the British army killed at the battle of Trenton, December 26, 1776. It is given for the first time in this country in Lossing's Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution, and the writer was the grandfather of the present Prince of Hesse Cassell, one of the thirty-nine petty tyrants who rule Germany.

"You cannot think how much pleased I was to hear that, out of the nineteen hundred and fifty-five Hessians who took part in the battle, no more than three hundred and forty-five remain. There are, accordingly, sixteen hundred and ten dead—no more and no less—so the treasury owes me, according to our contract, 654,000 florins. The Court of London says, it is true, that some hundred of them are only wounded, who cannot be paid for like the dead; but I hope that remindful of my instructions given to you at Cassell, you have not tried to save, with inhuman help, those poor fellows who could have bought life only at the sacrifice of a leg or an arm. That would be a sad present to them; and I am sure they prefer to die gloriously rather than live lamed and unfit for my service. Remember that out of the three hundred Spartans but one remained in life. Oh! how happy would I be if I could say the same of my brave Hessians."

MR. TOWNSEND'S work, upon which he has been engaged upward of seven years, is now before Congress, with a view to its purchase for the Congressional library. This work, in our opinion, should never have been allowed to leave New York, and should have been purchased for the Astor library, because it was there made, and is a complete and systematic work of the rebellion, which can never be replaced. The "Historical Record" upon which the Encyclopædia is based comprises eighty volumes, of 600 pages each, and the extent of this matter will be readily understood when we say that if the columns of print in the "Record" were extended in a direct line they would measure seventy-five miles. The "Record" is completed to the present time, and will be continued to the end of Mr. Johnson's administration. Encyclopædia is nearly finished for 1861, 1862, and 1863, and when completed will embrace twenty volumes of 1,200 pages each, of manuscript. Such is the completeness of the work that it will require Mr. Townsend some twelve years' time to finish it, including the seven years already given to it.

PERFECT harmony does not reign in the ranks of the Methodists concerning their two Book concerns located at New York and Cincinnati. A rivalry exists which is likely to become, if it has not already something worse. The following concluding sentences of a long article in the last number of the (N. Y.) *Methodist*, will give the reader some idea of the nature of the controversy and the spirit in which it is prosecuted:

"To come back now to our starting point. The Agents have asserted that the few differences between them have been settled 'without one unkind word, either written or spoken.' We have shown the contrary. They have stated substantially that there have been no collisions between the two Concerns. We have again shown the contrary. We have asserted that these collisions are 'disgraceful,' and we think we have made our statement entirely good."

A SUSTAINED effort is being made in behalf of Protestantism in Spain. At Lausanne, in Switzerland, is an institution for the education of young Protestant Spaniards; and the way it came about is told in this wise: An American widow lady, who was led to "lay up treasure in Heaven" by the death of her only son, resolved to devote her wealth to the cause of spreading the Gospel in Spain, by establishing and supporting a school for Spanish boys, with the special object of preparing them for further studies in Lausanne. The institution which she established at Pau, Switzerland, was no sooner opened than twelve students applied for admission. Thus it has come to pass that America and Switzerland have united in the great work of carrying the Gospel to Spain.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Action of the National Lincoln Monument Association.

The Board of Officers of the National Lincoln Monument Association, of which Governor Oglesby, of Illinois, is Chairman, has issued an address to the public, for the purpose of re-enlisting the interest and efforts of those who have already aided and encouraged them, and of securing the active sympathy and co-operation of others. They give a brief history of the origin of the corporation and the circumstances of its formation, and mention the causes of delay in beginning the work. At a meeting on the 22 inst., it was voted to take immediate steps to procure a suitable design for the monument, to cost a sum not exceeding $300,000. The proposals and designs are to be submitted on or before the 14th day of April, 1868, the third anniversary of President Lincoln's death, and the work of construction is to be commenced as soon thereafter as practicable. The present available funds of the Association amount to $134,000; consisting of $84,000 of cash contributions invested in interest-bearing Government and State bonds, and $50,000 appropriated by the Legislature of Illinois. The latter amount under the provisions of the act making the appropriation, cannot be used until the money now in the hands of the Association is expended in the erection of the monument, and no interest is, therefore, accuring upon the sum. About $66,000 more, therefore, will be needed to enable the Association to build the contemplated monument, and an earnest appeal is made to all who love and venerate the name and character of Lincoln, and who approve of the proposed mode of expressing that veneration and love, to send their contributions, without delay, to Hon. James H. Beveridge, Springfield, Ill., the Treasurer, of the Association, so that by the 14th of April next the whole $200,000 may be in hand. We quote:

"To secure the deficit of $66,000 this appeal is made. It will be the last general call upon the people of the State and nation that we propose to make. We want $200,000 for this monument, we believe that no less a sum will enable us to erect such a structure over the moulder-ing body of Abraham Lincoln as will comport with the lustre of his virtues and renown; the immortal acts to which he placed his hand or with the genius, civilization and dignity of the country, the age and the epoch in which he lived. But, while it is our firm conviction, and we are not yet ready to believe that it is not also the feeling of the American people, that the sum named is not too large, we nevertheless deem it proper to announce that if the $300,000 cannot be raised during the next few months, we will adopt a plan that can be executed for a less sum, and do the best we can with the means then at our disposal. For of two things we beg to assure the public, and especially those who sincerely wish to honor the name of Lincoln. First, that a monument shall be speedily begun; and second, that when begun it shall be speedily carried forward to completion. We are unanimously determined to adopt no design which we cannot clearly see our way to execute and finish; we do not intend to commence a structure beyond our means, only to leave its inchoate walls to crumble in the storms of waiting years. The lessons of derision and reproach taught by the miserable monumental failures at the Federal Capital and elsewhere, shall not be lost upon us.

* * * * "To all the various Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce; to the various Lodges of Masons, Odd Fellows, and Good Templars throughout the country; to all literary, religious and benevolent associations in the land; to the churches of all denominations everywhere; to every individual who reveres the name of Abraham Lincoln—to you, one and all, we come with this our last and most earnest appeal for prompt and generous contributions for the National Lincoln Monument. Whether the structure shall be truly grand and worthy or not, sage and seer, the good and true of every land and clime will come to muse and pray beneath its shade. But that from its use she has received great benefit, and seems to be recovering her health. She feels compelled to take it continually, for if she misses it but one day she suffers considerably, and there is a relapse of her old complaint and a return of physical weakness. Therefore your preparation should be generally known as a wonderful remedy.

Sold at Druggists and Grocers. Price $6 50 per dozen, or 60 cents single bottle.

FR. SPONHOLTZ, Agent, 315 Liberty street. Also by O. HARTUNG, 172 Smithfield street, C. F. BAUMAN, 107 Ohio street, Allegheny City, and A. KOCH, Birmingham. eod

Injurious Effects of Cosmetics.

An eminent Western physician in a communication in a late number of the *Medical and Surgical Reporter*, makes the following allusion to what he calls a serious evil pervading the American community:

To heighten their beauty in the eyes of admiring gentlemen, the ladies are resorting to various cosmetics in the shape of washes, powders, and paints, which are put up and lauded to the skies by greedy and unprincipled knaves calling themselves druggists, as being sovereign remedies for all the evils which beset a fair complexion. Now the ladies ought to know that all the preparations are more or less injurious to the skin when used habitually, and some of them even poisonous, and dangerous to health and life. One person in this community has suffered nearly everything but death for the past two years, besides expending a small fortune upon several doctors who did her no good because they did not understand the cause of the trouble. I have satisfactorily ascertained that it was nothing more nor less than the use of a cosmetic composed wholly of carbonate of lead and water. This is sold by druggists, who obtain it from New York and Chicago, put up in beautifully stained glass bottles, and labeled with a high sounding name. The lady above referred to had the usual symptoms of lead colic, followed by paralysis of the flexors of the wrists. Since discarding this cosmetic she is recovering the use of her hands, and her general health is improving. The test used is the following: Shake up the bottle and pour a little of the mixture into a wine glass, add a few drops of nitric acid, which dissolves the carbonate, making a transparent solution. To this add a few grains of iodide of potassium, and there is produced the beautiful yellow iodide of lead precipitated in a solution of nitrate of potash.

A Model Begging Sermon

Mrs. Jane Gregory, now residing in New York, at an advanced age, one of the faithful members of the old Mulberry Street Baptist Church, says that more than thirty years ago, when the Vandam Street (afterward McDougal Street) Church was burned to the ground, and sister churches were volunteering to aid the people in rebuilding, it was announced that Rev. Duncan Dunbar, the pastor, would preach in the evening at a certain church, after which a collection would be taken up for that object. Her husband suggested that they had better be well prepared for the call, as he had an idea that Mr. Dunbar was an admirable one for the business thus laid upon him, and that he would preach a powerful begging sermon.

When he arose in the pulpit he gave out a text, and, contrary to all expectation, preached a good Gospel sermon without the least reference to his Church or its loss. Just before the collection was taken up he rose and said: "When Job was afflicted, his brethren and sisters and friends came unto him, and 'comforted him over all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him; and every man also gave him a piece of money." And then he sat down. The effect was far greater than would have been that of a labored appeal, setting forth what they knew already of the loss and future want of M'Dougal Street Church. Every man did give to his afflicted brethren a piece of silver; and he gave it with a hearty good-will and a tender sympathy, which does not always follow tiresome appeals and stale arguments poured and pressed on weary congregations.—*Watchman and Reflector.*

A Remarkable Invention.

Somebody has started the very credible story that a German glass-maker has invented a telescope, or magnifying glass, by means of which the most intricate nerves and vessels inside of the body may be seen from the outside. In fact the whole arrangement and the action of the interior organs may, by means of this glass, be distinguished. It is supposed that the discovery will be of immense benefit to mankind, as, by means of it, the physician will be able to determine, with unvarying accuracy, the nature of any particular disease and the proper manner of treating the same. The name of the inventor, who expects to realize a fortune from his discovery, is Gottlieb Juntz. He is very poor, but a well-read and highly intelligent man. He has an aged mother, an invalid wife, six children and a blind sister, all dependent upon him for support. By means of this invention he has already nearly cured his wife. Six months ago a well-known doctor said she could not live, and pronounced her disease to be an affection of the heart. Juntz has, however, proven to him, with the aid of the wonderful microscope, that he was entirely mistaken—the stomach alone being the part affected.

An Oil Reminiscence of 1861.

Dr. George Cochran has commenced a suit against H. B. Hubbard and others, in the Supreme Court at Brooklyn, New York, for the recovery of $40,000, which the plaintiff and others invested in oil speculations. While the oil excitement was raging, the defendant and a Mrs. Ingersoll represented to plaintiff that they had purchased 100 acres of oil land near Oil Creek, Pa.; that they had paid $1,000 to bind the bargain, saying the cost of the land was $50,000, and proposed to form a company to purchase it. On the strength of these representations, as claimed, plaintiff, and others, formed a company and raised $50,000, which was handed over to defendants to purchase the land. Stock to the amount of $200,000 was issued and divided among the members of the company. A few subscriptions had only been taken, however, when it was ascertained that, instead of having paid $50,000 for the land, the defendants had only invested $10,000, leaving $40,000 to be accounted for. The case is in progress:

Clock-Work.

The two most curious examples of clock-work are the clock-lock and the clock-bed. The former, made by a locksmith of Frankfort in 1859, consisted of a strong box without any keyhole at all, and which even its owner could not open. Inside was a clock-work, the hand of which, when the box was open, the owner placed at the hour and minute when he again wanted to have access to the interior of the box. The apparatus is described in "No Thoroughfare."

The clock-bed was the invention of a Bohemian, in 1858, and was so constructed that a pressure upon it caused a soft and gentle air of Auber's to be played, which continued long enough to lull to sleep the most wakeful. At the head was a clock, the hand of which being placed at the hour that the sleeper wished to rise, when the time arrived the bed played a march of Spontoni's (spontaneously) with drums and cymbals, enough to raise the Seven Sleepers.

The State Lunatic Hospital.

The Board of Trustees of the Pennsylvania State Lunatic Asylum, in their report of the affairs of the institution for the year 1867, say:

"There were in the hospital, on the 1st day of January, 1867, 327 patients, viz.: 181 males and 146 females; admitted during the year, 170, viz.: 99 males and 71 females; discharged during the year, 157, viz.: 95 males and 62 females. Of this number 51 were restored, 39 improved, 33 were stationary, and 34 died. There remained in the Hospital, December 31st, 1867, 340, viz: 185 males and 155 females. Although the admissions have not been so many as in the previous year, there is a decided increase in the number of patients, and during the whole year the wards, more particularly those occupied by the men, have been crowded. Such was the pressure during the early part of the summer, that the Board thought it advisable to have public notice given that none but recent cases of insanity could be admitted until the number was reduced considerably below what it was in the early part of the month of July.

"This was the first time they had felt the necessity of exercising the restrictive power given by the law, that while ample provision was not made by the State for all classes of insanity, "recent cases shall have the preference over those of long standing;" and it is to be feared that the Board will not have it in their power to relax the force of that law during the coming year. It is earnestly to be hoped that the Legislature will see the wisdom, the propriety and the necessity of making, promptly, the most ample provision for the large class of the insane which claims the fostering care of the Commonwealth, and who, more than any other class, need that care and treatment which are due to the most afflicted class of her citizens."

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☞ THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SUBJECT to Nervous Headache for years are restored to perfect health by one dose (forty drops) of METCALFE'S GREAT RHEUMATIC REMEDY. It never fails.

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WHEATON'S OINTMENT cures Old Sores.
WHEATON'S OINTMENT cures all Diseases of the Skin.
Price 50 cents—by mail 60 cents. All Druggists sell it. WEEKS & POTTER, Boston, Proprietors.
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☞ THE CONFESSIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF AN INVALID—Published for the benefit, and as a CAUTION TO YOUNG MEN and others, who suffer from Nervous Debility, &c., supplying the Means of Self-Cure. Written by one who cured himself, and sent free on receiving a post paid directed envelope. Address JOHN THANIEL MAYFAIR, Brooklyn, New York. Also free, by the same publisher, a Circular of DAISY SWAIN, the great Poem of the War.
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☞ AN INTERESTING LETTER TO MR. LEOPOLD HOFF (Hoff's Malt Extract Depot, 542 Broadway, New York), by Thomas Harford, Esq., of the New York "Home Journal":

DEAR SIR: As an act of gratitude to you, and for the advantage of any one who may read this, I wish to say that my daughter has derived great relief and benefit from the use of your MALT EXTRACT BEVERAGE OF HEALTH. She has been ill for a long time suffering from consumption, general debility, loss of blood and strength. I followed the advice of the well-known Dr. W. John Mitchell, to try your Malt Beverage, and am pleased to admit that from its use she has received great benefit, and seems to be recovering her health. She feels compelled to take it continually, for if she misses it but one day she suffers considerably, and there is a relapse of her old complaint and a return of physical weakness. Therefore your preparation should be generally known as a wonderful remedy.

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FINANCIAL.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA.
HARRISBURG, December 18, 1867.

NOTICE

TO THE

HOLDERS OF THE

LOANS

OF THE

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

DUE JULY 1st, 1868.

THE FOLLOWING

LOANS,

DUE JULY 1st, 1868,

WILL BE REDEEMED WITH INTEREST

TO DATE OF PAYMENT ON PRESENTATION AT THE

FARMERS' AND MECHANICS'

NATIONAL BANK,

or

PHILADELPHIA.

VIZ:

LOAN OF MARCH 27, 1839; DUE JULY 1, 1868.

LOAN OF JULY 19, 1839, DUE JULY 1, 1868.

Interest on the above Loans will cease on the 1ST OF JULY, 1868,

FRANCIS JORDAN,

SECRETARY OF STATE.

JOHN F. HARTRANFT,

AUDITOR GENERAL,

W. H. KEMBLE,

STATE TREASURER.

COMMISSIONERS OF SINKING FUND.

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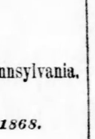

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The Shareholders of the EXCHANGE AND FOURTH NATIONAL BANKS of Pittsburgh, and others who own Stock in any of the National Banks of other counties in the State and who reside in this county, are hereby notified the Books will be open on the 20 DAY OF MARCH NEXT, for the receipt of the Three Mill State Tax for 1867, as per act of Assembly, approved April 12th, 1867, and will remain open the usual time given for the receipt of other taxes, after which time Collectors will be appointed to collect from delinquents "all other taxes and collections."

DAVID AIKEN, JR., County Treasurer.

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Where other so-called "Bitters" have failed, and the universal indorsement it has received from the Medical Faculty, stamps these Bitters as the most wonderful in the world. This is the plain fact to which thousands of people are prepared to attest,

The Daily Commercial

1868.

THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL.

DAILY AND WEEKLY.

A Paper for the Business Community and Household.

Presidential Year.

Now is the Time to Subscribe.

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Republican in politics, the COMMERCIAL does not scruple to be independent and criticises freely the leading men of the party. Adhering firmly to the fundamental principles of that party, it believes success is most surely achieved by freely discussing propositions and measures, with the view of assisting the reader to arrive at correct conclusions.

Entering, as we now are, on the Presidential year, a preference for GEN. GRANT FOR THE PRESIDENCY has already been expressed. In this respect, the COMMERCIAL was one of the first to take a decided stand; and it has the satisfaction of having already seen its favorite the accepted of the great majority of the Republican party.

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Office, Commercial Building, No. 76 Fifth street. Address,

COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh.

RAILWAY MATTERS.

—The New Castle *Journal*, of last week, says: the Neshannock Railroad Coal and Iron Company is now organized and is ready to commence operations. The capital stock is $100,000, and the books are now open for subscription at the temporary office of the Company at the store of Rhodes & Co. Here is an excellent opportunity for our citizens to aid in the improvement of the county by taking stock in the project. It is certain to become a paying institution besides being of great advantage to our manufacturing and individual interests.

—The Kent *News* says that Samuel Gurney, John P. Kennard, Charles Mosley, Trustees, and James E. Coleman, official liquidator of the Bank of London, by Clarkson N. Potter, their agent and counsel, have filed their petition in the Court of Common Pleas for Trumbull county, Ohio, for the sale of the Ashtabula Division of the Atlantic and Great Western Railway.

—The Northern Central Railway Company have determined to uniform its officers, agents and employees engaged in or about passenger stations and on passenger trains, the following being the dress prescribed: Coat—Army blue, sack, pattern army blouse, single breasted, with five gilt buttons. Vest—Army blue, single breasted, cut high in the neck, with six gilt buttons. Pants—Gray plain, without stripe or welt. Cap—Navy pattern, with black band, half an inch wide, around lower edge, with second band, same width, one inch above the lower band; between these bands the badge of service will be worn. Engineers, firemen, brakemen and baggage masters may wear dark blue overalls (shirt and pants), made to fit neatly. Station agents, and those employed about stations, instead of black hats, will be required to use a band, same width, made of yellow worsted lace. The buttons and badge of service will be furnished by the railway company. *Material*—Winter, beaver or broadcloth; summer, flannel or broadcloth. The order is to take effect on the 1st of May next.

—The following means of heating railway cars was tried a few days since on one of the Eastern railroads, and is said to work well: The apparatus consists of a pipe which takes the cold air from beneath the cars by means of a bonnet, the motion of the car forcing the air into the pipe, which conducts it over and around a fire in a Russia iron heater in one end of the car. The air is heated here, and forced by the pressure from the outside, into a large pipe running along the side of the car, under the seats and near the floor, and perforated at intervals between the seats. The advantages claimed for this invention are that the air being taken fresh from the outside and constantly kept moving, is pure and healthy, the heating apparatus thus acting as a ventilator as well; that the heat is applied to the feet, where it is needed, instead of rising to the top of the car, and causing headache while the feet are cold as ice; that the heat is equally, or nearly equally, distributed throughout the car, and that the moving, being confined in a Russia iron drum, very strongly constructed and furnished with perforated drafts, can be thrown or rolled from end to end of the car without breaking or allowing a coal to escape, thus preventing the danger of any car burnings.

STATE ITEMS.

Benedict Minsberger, a brewer employed in Meinder's brewery, at Hamburg, Berks county, on Saturday evening last, proceeded to Popp's brewery, in the same place, where he accidentally fell into a tub filled with scalding hot water, and scalded himself in the most shocking manner, causing death the Sunday following.

A laborer at the coal shaft of Kimberly, Forker & Co., in Hickory township, Mercer county, was instantly killed on Tuesday by a fall down the shaft. He had pushed an empty car to the mouth of the shaft, supposing the platform upon which the cars are lowered into the mine to be in its proper place, but instead of being at the top, it stood at the bottom, and the car, followed by its unfortunate pusher, went down the shaft, with the result stated. The deceased leaves a wife and seven children, in destitute circumstances.

Three dwellings were burned, with their contents, last week, in Clarion county—one occupied by George Mahle, in Elk township, one by Mr. Weaver, in Ashland township, and one by Mr. Strollinger, at Tippecanoe Furnace. Loss heavy, and no insurance.

The Clarion *Banner* says: On Saturday last, about twelve o'clock, Mr. Wm. Logue was engaged in blasting ore near the Brady's Bend Iron Works, and while placing a charge of powder into the hole for blasting, it is supposed the tamping bar cut the fuse, thus igniting and producing a terrible explosion, throwing out at least half a ton of ore, resulting in fearfully lacerating the person of Mr. Logue, so that his life is in danger. A large piece of flesh was cut out of his left arm, the lower part was cut down about an inch, both eyes completely closed, and his whole face left black and crisp. His sufferings are awful.

The Berks *County Journal* says: The mystery of the Rehrer murder in Schuylkill county, which was thought about to be unravelled a week or two ago, is becoming a greater mystery than ever. At a hearing of the suspected persons last Monday, all were discharged. The "detective" who was said to have worked up the case, turns out to be a swindler whose object was to extort money from the friends of the deceased; and he has been committed to jail to answer. The stories about the dead letter, the arrest of two Irishmen in Buffalo, the confession of young Albrighton, and the washing of the bloody clothes at Loomison's are all said to be villainous lies, raised no doubt to ward off suspicion from the real guilty parties. The police are still searching for the body of Capt. Rehrer, and at last accounts were pumping out the old slope of the Marshield Colliery for the purpose.

A man was found lying in the gutter in Courtland street at 2 o'clock this morning in a state of intoxication. He had on his person at the time $23,445. Luckily, an honest police officer came along and took care both of him and the money. He gave his name as William M. Smith, and said he was a merchant plumber, doing business in and recently arrived from New Orleans.

CITY MATTERS.

FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION.—The Pittsburgh Firemen's Association will meet this evening at their hall in City Building, Diamond.

ARRESTED ON AN ATTACHMENT.—Two men named Louis Engleman and Daniel Pfifer were arrested on Saturday on attachments issued by the Sheriff, and committed to the county jail.

ST. XAVIER'S ACADEMY.—At a meeting of the Brotherhood of St. Joseph, of this city, held yesterday, a donation of one hundred dollars was made towards the rebuilding of St. Xavier's Academy, at Latrobe, which was destroyed by fire over a week ago.

SLIGHT FIRE.—A slight fire occurred in a house in course of erection in the Ninth ward, on Saturday evening, resulting from some boys who were playing in the building throwing a lighted cigar among a pile of shavings. The fire was extinguished with but little damage.

SALE OF REAL ESTATE IN ALLEGHENY.—On Saturday last, A. Leggate, Esq., auctioneer, sold at public sale the house and lot, No. 57 Webster street, Second ward, Allegheny, for four thousand dollars. The lot is 20 by 110 feet, and house is a two story brick containing seven rooms.

DEMOCRATIC DELEGATE ELECTION.—The Democrats held their election on Saturday for delegates to the County Convention, to be held in the Court House on the 12th inst., who will elect delegates to the Democratic State Convention. A number of the delegates were instructed to vote for Gen. Geo. W. Cass for Vice-President.

IN THEIR NEW HALL.—Post No. 38, of Lawrenceville, Grand Army of the Republic, has changed its headquarters to their new hall in the Howard Buildings, corner of Butler and Wentworth streets. The new hall will be inaugurated on Thursday evening, the 20th inst., on which occasion representatives will be present from the different Posts in the country.

COAL LAND FOR SALE.—A tract of valuable coal land, embracing one hundred and fifty acres, situated on the Allegheny river, midway between Pittsburgh and Oil City, is offered for sale in to-day's issue. Besides coal, there are other valuable elements on the tract, which make it one of the most attractive pieces of property offered for the investment of capital in a long time.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT.—A boy named Wetron, while attempting to cross St. Clair street in front of a wagon, on Saturday evening, was knocked down and trampled under the hoofs of the horses attached to the vehicle. He was picked up and carried into a house near-by, when it was ascertained that he had received a severe cut on the forehead, inflicted by the hoof of the horses, besides being bruised in different parts of the body. He was taken to his home on Duquesne Way, where his injuries were attended to.

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS G. A. R.—The headquarters for the Department of Pennsylvania, of the Grand Army of the Republic, is now in this city, Gen. A. L. Pearson having been elected Department Commander at the recent State Convention. Captain W. B. Cook, of this city, has been appointed Assistant Adjutant General *pro tem.* The new Council of Administration will meet to-morrow at the headquarters.

STILL ANOTHER MISSING.—Still another of our citizens is missing, and any information as to his whereabouts is anxiously sought for by his family and friends. On the 27th of November last, Mr. William Hines, watchman on the steamboat "Hornet," left his home on Third street, this city, taking with him a considerable sum of money, and since that time nothing has been seen or heard of him. He was last seen, on the day mentioned, on Fifth street.

DISTRESSING OCCURRENCE.—A sad accident occurred on Friday afternoon, near Neville Station, about five miles below Allegheny City, resulting in the death of Mr. George Rinehart, bookkeeper at the tobacco manufactory of Messrs. W. & D. Rinehart, on Wood street. Mr. Rinehart had been with his wife on a visit to this city, and started for his residence at Neville in the afternoon train on the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad. After leaving the train they started up the steep hillside towards their home, but before reaching the top, Mr. Rinehart slipped on a piece of ice, and fell over a steep embankment, receiving injuries which resulted in his death on Sunday morning. The deceased was a young man, and was only married a few months since.

THE 102D REGIMENTAL SOCIETY.—The annual election of this organization was held on Saturday evening, and resulted in the choice of the following officers: President—Gen. Thos. A. Rowley; Vice President—Alex. P. Callow; Recording Secretary—John A. Gray; Financial Secretary—Andrew Wayt; Treasurer—George W. Gillespie; Trustees—Joseph Brown, Robert W. Gray, Albert Gildernen; Examining Committee—Alexander Wilson, John D. McFarland, Benj. F. McGowan, John C. Boyd, John C. Appleby, Sergeant-at-Arms, John R. Thompson. A proposition to organize a military company was debated, and a committee of fifteen were obtained. The roll has been deposited with Gen. Rowley, and former members of the regiment are invited to call at his office, in the Custom House, and sign it.

SKATING CONTEST AT CANONSBURG.—There will be a skating contest at Canonsburg on Wednesday afternoon, February 12th, at 2 o'clock, weather and ice permitting, for the championship of Allegheny and Washington counties. Very fine prizes are offered by T. W. Cowey, photographer at Canonsburg, consisting of two beautiful engravings. A large and truthful representation of Washington and Jefferson College, in a neat, rustic frame, is to be presented to the gentleman excelling both in artistic and plain skating. To the best lady performer in the skatorial art the beautiful picture "Faith" in a neat rosewood frame, with cord and tassel complete. Judges—C. Ritchie, John E. Black, Esq., and C. W. McDaniel are to be the judges. Mr. John Brown is to be substituted for Mr. Ritchie in the decision of the ladies contest. The ice is at present in a splendid condition, and a brilliant time may be anticipated.

The Union Meetings of the M. E. Church.

The Union meetings which were held last week in the Liberty Street M. E. Church were of a very interesting character. The attendance was quite large, and a deep religious feeling was awakened. The second weekly meeting arranged among the pastors of the Methodist Episcopal churches of the two cities is appointed to be held in the South Common Church, Allegheny. Preaching was conducted yesterday by the pastor, Rev. S. M. Hickman. The services during the remainder of the week will be conducted as follows: Monday evening, by Dr. Morgan; Tuesday evening, by Rev. W. P. Turner; Wednesday evening, by Rev. E. B. Griffen; Thursday evening, by Rev. R. L. Miller, and Friday evening, by Rev. W. H. Locke. Evening meetings begin at 7½ o'clock.

Oil Boat Destroyed by Fire.

Between twelve and one o'clock yesterday an oil boat belonging to the National Refining and Storing Company, valued at about $800, and lying in the Allegheny river, near Lawrenceville, was destroyed by fire. It seems that the ruins of the McKeon Refinery, which was burned last October, have been smouldering ever since, and occasionally send up a strong flame. A stop-cock in one of the pipes of an adjacent still, which had been frozen, burst yesterday, and the oil ran out in quite a stream down to the burning ruins, where it ignited. Another boat narrowly escaped destruction through the efforts of Mr. Cuddy, manager of the Standard Refinery. The smouldering ashes above referred to are very dangerous to property, and it is the duty of the owners of the ruins to have them thoroughly extinguished, and that without delay, or a more disastrous loss than that of yesterday may be the result.

Presentations at the Rink.

On Saturday evening a large number of persons congregated at the Keystone Skating Rink to witness the presentation of the prizes contested for during the week. Thomas M. Marshall, Esq., was selected to make the presentation speeches, and performed that duty in his usual acceptable manner. After the Champion Medal had been handed to Mr. Swift and responded to, a beautiful gold watch was presented to Mr. Callie Curtis. The watch, which was of American manufacture, was purchased from Messrs. James R. Reed & Co., jewelers, on Fifth street, and bore the following inscription: "To Callie Curtis, from his friends of the Keystone Skating Rink, February 8, 1868." A purse of money was also presented to Mr. Eugene W. Pratt, and it was announced that a similar testimonial awaited Mr. John Powers upon his return from Cleveland. Miss Nellie Dean was also presented with a pair of elegant skates, ornamented with gold and silver, and one hundred dollars in greenbacks.

Anti-Annexation Meeting in Mc. Clure Township.

A meeting of the citizens of McClure township opposed to the annexation of the township to Allegheny City, was held on Saturday evening at Eckert's Hotel, at Woods' Run. The meeting was a very large and spirited one, about two hundred persons being present. Wm. Walker, Esq., presided over the meeting, and Thomas Piatt, Esq., acted as Secretary. A Committee on Resolutions was appointed, consisting of Messrs. R. H. Kerr, Charles Hartman, Captain Hugh S. Fleming and Wm. F. Richardson, who reported a series of resolutions, remonstrating against the annexation of McClure township to Allegheny City, and requesting our members of the Legislature to use all honorable means to defeat the passage of any bill tending to annex the township to Allegheny. The resolutions were unanimously adopted. A remonstrance against annexation was then prepared, which received nearly one hundred signatures during the evening. At the same meeting the matter of paving the Beaver road, from the Woods' Run Station to the Manchester Car Stables, was discussed, but no decisive action taken in regard to it.

DISASTROUS FIRE.

Burning of English's Printing House.

Two Dwellings Destroyed and Others Injured.

LOSS, $200,000—INSURANCE, $50,000.

One of the most destructive fires that has occurred in this city for months past, took place yesterday morning, involving the loss of the large and elegant building, Nos. 96 and 98 Fourth street, owned and occupied by Messrs. A. H. English & Co., as a publishing house, together with a large amount of other property. The

PARTICULARS OF THE CONFLAGRATION,

as far as could be ascertained, are as follows: Yesterday morning at ten minutes after one o'clock, as Mr. Seth Wilmot, Lieutenant of the night police, was passing along Fourth street, he discovered a fire in the basement of Messrs. English & Co.'s establishment. He immediately gave the alarm, and the firemen, upon their arrival, extinguished the flames without difficulty. An inspection of the premises showed that the fire was the work of an incendiary, a number of reams of printing paper having been piled in one corner of the building and fired by means of waste paper. The establishment was then closed by the police, and the firemen retired. At forty-five minutes after three o'clock, fire was observed issuing from the third story of the building, and in a few moments afterwards it was a sheet of flames. The firemen labored incessantly, but the fire spread with fearful rapidity to the row of three-story brick dwellings on the east side, destroying two of them and injuring the third. The first house in the row was occupied by Mr. John D. Bailey as a residence and office. Mr. Bailey's family escaped from the burning building with difficulty, and were unable to save their clothing or any portion of the furniture. The next house was occupied by Mrs. Thorn, who had leased a suite of rooms to Mr. C. Tetedoux, the first story front room being used as a law office by J. Harrison Sewell, Esq. This building, together with the printing portion of its contents, was destroyed. The adjoining house, owned and occupied by Mr. D. Brucklocher, next took fire, but the firemen succeeded in extinguishing the flames before the building had been entirely destroyed, thereby preserving the balance of the row. United States Assessor Weaver had his office in the first story, and fortunately all his books and papers were preserved.

The fire was so intense as to set fire to the roofs of the three-story brick dwellings on the opposite side of the street, occupied by Dr. Jas. Orr, dentist, Gen. J. Bowman Sweitzer, C. D. Arnsthal and Mrs. Stevenson. The Duquesne Fire Company succeeded in getting a hose through Dr. Orr's house to the roof and extinguishing the flames. Dr. Orr estimates his damage by water at $500, while Gen. Sweitzer, Mr. Arnsthal and Mrs. Stevenson will each lose a similar amount. The buildings are owned by Mrs. Stevenson, and have not been long occupied by water. The law office of R. G. C. Sproul, Esq., was also badly scorched and damaged by water.

THE LOSSES SUSTAINED,

The establishment of Messrs. English & Co., in which the fire originated, was erected in '66 and '67, at a cost of $45,000, and was an elegant structure. It was four stories high, fronting on Fourth street forty feet, and extending back eighty-five feet. The front was of iron, filled in with glass, the French plate in the lower stories being the largest in the city, and costing $1,250. The first floor was divided into two store rooms, one being used by the firm as a stationery store, while the other was occupied by Messrs. Seth Wilmot & Co. Knott as a wholesale shoe warehouse, a branch from a Philadelphia establishment. Mr. Knott had a small stock on hand, and estimates his loss at $5,000, which is fully covered by insurance. The balance of the building was occupied as a printing house, the firm being largely engaged in issuing Osgood's series of school books. The most approved machinery had recently been introduced, among which were three Adams presses of the largest size, folding, cutting and ruling machines, etc., the whole being valued at $70,000. The stock of material on hand was very large. The stereotype plates, of which there were 25,000 or 30,000 volumes of Osgood's school books, and a similar number of works by other authors. The loss of stock and material will amount to $50,000, the principal portion of stereotype plates had been deposited in a fire proof vault, in the basement. The plates for the spellers and the intermediate arithmetic were on the press, and it is supposed that they have been destroyed. Firemen will be engaged this morning in removing the debris from the vault, in order to secure the plates, as it is Mr. English's intention to proceed to Philadelphia and make arrangements with publishers in that city to supply his wants. The firm estimate their total loss at $145,000, but in case the stereotypes have escaped injury, the amount will be $30,000 less. The have an insurance of $41,500 in cash, divided principally in the Etna, Girard and Continental. None of our city companies have risks on the building or stock.

Mr. Bailey lost his furniture, together with nearly all the clothing of his family. He computes his loss at $5,000 or $6,000, upon which there is an insurance of $2,000. The building was owned by Charles H. Paulson, Esq., and is supposed to have been insured.

Mrs. Thorn's furniture was also destroyed, as was that of Mr. Tetedoux. Their loss will amount to $3,000; no insurance. The building was also owned by Mr. Paulson.

Mr. Brucklocher's loss by water was very severe—his furniture and carpets being ruined. The roof was burned off the house, and otherwise damaged, that is the building. He owned the building, and had an insurance of $2,500 in the Franklin Company—$2,000 on the house and $500 on the furniture.

The residences of Dr. Le Moyne and Mr. John Rook were also injured by water. Harry Shiels, Esq., of the St. Charles Hotel, had stored a large quantity of ice in a building in the rear of English & Co.'s establishment, and a portion of it was destroyed.

The Origin of the Fire.

A number of theories have been advanced as to the origin of the fire, and while the impression is general that it was caused by an incendiary, a difference of opinion exists as to whether it was fired once or twice. It is supposed by some that that the incendiary entered the establishment a second time and consummated his devilish work, while others surmise that during the first fire the flames passed up an opening in the floor to the third story. Mr. English passed through the building between five and six o'clock on the previous afternoon, at which time all the fires were extinguished. Fire Marshal Murphy will investigate the matter to-day, and it is hoped that he will succeed in obtaining some clue to the guilty party.

PRECAUTIONS OF THE POLICE.

Yesterday afternoon large crowds of people visited the ruins, when Chief of Police Greene, in order to guard against any accident from the falling of the front wall of Mr. Bailey's house, (the walls of Messrs. English & Co.'s building having fallen in during the fire), stretched wires across the street at that point, and detailed policemen to prevent persons from passing. The movement being a novel one in this city, a number of persons rebelled against it, and endeavored to force a passage, but the officers performed their duty and prevented them from doing so. The track of the Oakland Passenger Railway was covered with debris, and the cars stopped during the day in front of the Mayor's office.

LAWRENCE FIRE COMPANY.—At a meeting of the Lawrence Fire Company, of Lawrenceville, held a day or two ago, M. S. Donahue resigned the office of Secretary, and E. A. Frethy was elected to the vacancy. Messrs. Scott, Reynolds and Eccles were appointed a Committee to confer with Councils in regard to the purchase of an engine, &c., and to report at the next meeting. Gen. A. L. Pearson, W. C. Brown and T. W. Reynolds were elected delegates to the Pittsburgh Firemen's Association. The next meeting of the Company will be held on March 12th.

Public Amusements.

OPERA HOUSE.—The seventh representation of the "Black Crook" took place Saturday evening, there being a crowded and enthusiastic audience present. In its present reconstructed form, the play is far more attractive than when first produced here during the close of last season. It will enter upon the second week of its representation this evening, and with new attractions. Mons. St. Ody, Signora Antonini and Miss Kate Pennoyer, aided by eight coryphees and thirty ballet fairies, will give for the first time here the "Jockey Dance," said to be a highly entertaining scene.

EXCELSIOR HALL.—Our readers on the north side will have an opportunity this evening of hearing Blind Tom, the pianist, who will give an entertainment at Excelsior Hall.

PERSONAL.—Manager Wm. Henderson and accomplished wife have arrived in New York, from a delightful tour of the principal cities of Europe.

Police Intelligence.

[Before Alderman Taylor.]

CROSS SUIT.

Peter Eddenger, against whom an information was made on Friday by George Brennon, appeared on Saturday and entered cross suit against Brennon, for assault and battery. The suits grow out of a difficulty in the steel works of Hussey, Wells & Co., in the Ninth ward, where they were employed. The case was held for a hearing.

FALSE PRETENSES.

Christian Hagner charged Ernest Stuckhart with having obtained a pair of boots, valued at $12, from him, under false and fraudulent representations. The case was settled by the defendant paying the bill and the costs in the case.

THREATENED HER.

Amanda Garbagen made oath charging Kate Richey with surety of the peace, stating that the latter made threats against her life. The accused was arrested and held for a hearing.

[Before Alderman Strain.]

WIFE ABANDONMENT.

Mrs. Margaret McGary brought suit on Saturday against her husband for abandonment, alleging that he left her in September last, and since that time has failed to provide or contribute to her support. He was arrested by officer Barry and held to bail for a hearing.

[Before Alderman Neillie, of Allegheny.]

FALSE PRETENSES.

A. Bailey made an information on Saturday against George Tyler and wife, charging them with false pretenses. It appears that the defendants sold their household goods at auction, part of which was purchased by Bailey. The latter, it is alleged, did not call for the goods in time, when they were again sold—hence the suit. The defendants were arrested and committed to jail for trial. They subsequently procured bail and were released.

MONONGAHELA VALLEY RAILROAD.

Meeting of the Friends of the Proposed Road—Map of the Different Routes Prepared.

The Committee on Lithographing, appointed at the last meeting of the friends of the proposed Monongahela Valley Railroad, met on Saturday morning at the office of Captain T. W. Briggs, on Water street, Dr. J. B. Stilley presiding. It was reported that the Committee had procured two hundred copies of the lithograph map of the country through which the proposed route will pass, and that sufficient money had been raised to defray all the expenses of lithographing. After transacting some unimportant business, the Committee adjourned.

MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF THE ROAD.

After the adjournment of the Committee on Lithographing, a meeting of the friends of the proposed road was held at the same place. The meeting came to order by calling Joseph Wilson, Esq., of Street's Run, to the chair, and appointing J. Reymer, Esq., of this city, as Secretary.

On motion of Dr. L. Oldshue, the Committee on Lithographing were instructed to present a copy of the survey to each person who has subscribed the sum of five dollars towards the surveying of the routes, and after such distribution, if there were any left, to be distributed among those who had subscribed two dollars and a half.

On motion, it was ordered that after copies of the lithographic survey had been presented to the members of the Legislature, two-thirds of the remaining copies be given to the friends along the Saw Mill Run route, and the remaining third to those along the Street's Run route.

On motion, the original map, drawn by Dr. Stilley, was presented to Mr. West Frye, of Findleyville, Washington county.

A committee, consisting of Messrs. Joseph Wilson, Dr. J. Stilley and Dr. L. Oldshue, were appointed to call another meeting, after which the meeting adjourned.

Fifth, Market, St. Clair, Federal.

Any one having a *store room* to let on any one of these streets will please address I. G. S. Box 180, Pittsburgh P. O.

Penn Street Property at Auction.

Saturday, February 15th at four o'clock P. M., on the premises, Messrs. Smithson, Vanhook & McClelland will sell by auction, that very desirable three story brick dwelling house of eleven rooms, No. 208 Penn street, having all modern improvements incident to a first class dwelling. See auction advertisement.

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Pain Paint all over.
Come and test Pain Paint free of cost, at 639 Penn street, Pittsburgh, in the Drug Store. The crowd is big; come early.

THE ANTIDOTE in all cases where the *nerve fluid* requires stimulating, or where Neuralgia, Nervousness, or any nervous complaint exists, is Dr. TURNER'S TIC DOULOUREUX, or UNIVERSAL NEURALGIA PILL. The most violent attack of any of these maladies is silenced by these medicines. Apothecaries have it. Principal depot, 36 COURTNEY PLACE, BOSTON, MASS. Price, $1.00 per package; by mail, two postage stamps extra.

McClarren & McKennan, Druggists, Agents, Pittsburgh. eod

Throat Affections.

Consumption, Chronic Catarrh of the Head, Diseases of the Eye and Ear successfully treated by Dr. Ahern, 23 Enfield street. Office hours from 9 A. M. to 4 P. M.

Never Failing Safety and Success.

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP is a safe and certain remedy for all diseases with which children are afflicted during the process of teething. It has been in use for many years. Never known to fail. Gives rest to the mother and relief to the child. Cures wind colic and regulates the bowels. 25 cents a bottle.

Be sure and call for

"MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP,"

Having the *fac-simile* of "CURTIS & PERKINS" on the outside wrapper. All others are base imitations.

THE Best and Original Tonic of Iron, Phosphorus and Calisaya, known as Caswell, Mack & Co.'s Ferro Phosphorated Elixir of Calisaya Bark. This tonic depends for its virtues upon the Phosphorus renews waste of the nerve tissue, and the Calisaya gives a natural healthful tone to the digestive organs, thereby curing dyspepsia in its various forms, Wakefulness, Despondency, Debility, and Depression of Spirits. Manufactured only by CASWELL, HAZARD & CO., New York. Sold by all druggists. m*

BE SURE and call for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," having the *fac-simile* of "Curtis & Perkins" on the outside wrapper. All others are base imitations. m-w-f

TO BEAUTIFY and dress the hair, and restore it to its natural color, and impart that beautiful gloss, odor, etc., use Mrs. S. A. Allen's Improved (new style) Hair Restorer or Dressing, (in one bottle.) Every Druggist sells it. Price one dollar. MWF

BE SURE and call for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," having the *fac-simile* of "Curtis & Perkins" on the outside wrapper. All others are base imitations. m-w-f

Truth Stranger than Fiction.

NEWARK, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, August 19, 1867.

MESSRS. HOSTETTER & SMITH:

Gentlemen,—My wife having received so much benefit from Bitters, I deem it my duty to give testimony in their favor. About one and a half years since she had a very severe attack of Dysentery, or Bloody Flux, which became chronic and continued for the above period of time, defying the most skilful physicians in this country. We finally became discouraged, and gave up all hope of her recovery, when, by accident, my attention was called to your most valuable Bitters by Messrs. Collins & Thurston, Druggists, holding the agency for Alleghany. Having them recommended for Bloody Flux, I bought one bottle, and commenced giving according to directions; and before *one third of the bottle* had been taken she was entirely cured, and enjoys perfectly good health at this time.

Most respectfully yours,

W. D. NUTTER.

BRANCHVILLE, ALA., March 11, 1867.

MESSRS. HOSTETTER & SMITH, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Sirs:—I am hardly able to express my gratitude for the benefit I have derived from the use of your STOMACH BITTERS. I have been afflicted with Liver Complaint and Dyspepsia for more than five years, from which I suffered no little. My physicians failed to give me permanent relief. I became melancholy and unhappy, my constitution was much broken down by using mercury. Accidentally meeting with one of your Almanacs it induced me to procure a few bottles of your Bitters, which afforded me very great relief; and I feel my incurable case will soon effect a permanent cure. I was pronounced incurrable, and my recovery through your Bitters will be little short of a miracle. My neighbors express surprise at seeing me so much improved in health, and look upon my rapid recovery as wonderful.

Gratefully, yours,

ROBT. F. NEWTON, P. M.

Similia Similibus Curantur.

RHEUMATISM! RHEUMATISM!

It is well known that bathing, ointments, and external applications, only drive Rheumatism from one part of the system to another, sometimes with fatal results. HUMPHREY'S SPECIFIC HOMEOPATHIC RHEUMATIC PILLS often cure the worst and most protracted cases. This simple medicated SUGAR PILL will do more to cure Rheumatism than all the quack nostrums and medicines, and has cured when all other means have failed. Price 25 cents per box. Six boxes for $1 25.

FAMILY CASES

Of 25 large vials, morocco case, containing a specific for every ordinary disease a family is subject to, and a book of directions - $10 00

Smaller FAMILY and TRAVELING cases with 20 to 28 vials from - - - $5 to 8

These Remedies, by the case or single box, are sent to any part of the country, by Mail or Express, free of charge, on receipt of the price. Address HUMPHREYS' SPECIFIC

Homœopathic Medicine Company,

Office and Depot, No. 562 Broadway, New York.

Dr. Humphreys is consulted daily at his office, personally or by letter, as above, for all forms of disease.

B. L. FAHNESTOCK & CO.,
Wholesale Agents.

A. Torrence, Geo. H. Keyser, E. Miner, Jos. Fleming, McClarran & McKennan, have them at retail.

MARRIED:

SHEDDEN—CARTER—On Wednesday, January 29, 1868, at the residence of the bride's mother, by the Rev. Mr. Snyder, Miss JOHN SHEDDEN to Miss SALLIE CARTER, all of Union township.

GRAY—JOYCE—On the 6th inst., by Rev. I. Dale, Mr. ROBERT W. GRAY and Miss ANNIE E. JOYCE, all of Allegheny county, Pa.

DIED:

RINEHART—At his residence, Neville Station, Pittsburgh, Pa., on Friday, January 31st, and on Saturday, morning, 8th inst., at 7:25 o'clock, GEORGE RINEHART, in the twenty-sixth year of his age.

The funeral will take place from the residence of his father, No. 153 Fourth street, on TUESDAY MORNING, at 10 o'clock. The friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend.

HAMS AND DRIED BEEF.

New Sugar Cured Hams;
New Sugar Cured Dried Beef;
New Sugar Cured Shoulders and Sides,

Just out of Smoke and for sale by

F. SELLERS & CO.

F. SELLERS & CO.,

MANUFACTURERS OF

EXTRA NO. 1 AND 2 LARD OIL,

COR. WAYNE AND PENN STREETS.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.—Letters of Administration upon the estate of A. A. RANKIN, late of Elizabeth township, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned, all persons having claims against said estate will present them immediately for payment, and all persons indebted to said estate will make payment immediately to the undersigned.

7 DAVID RANKIN, Administrator.

CONVERSION OF 7-30'S.

We are now prepared to convert the Second and Third Series of

SEVEN-THIRTIES,

INTO THE

New 1867 5-20 Gold Coupon Bonds.

JAMES T. BRADY & CO.,

Dealers in Government Securities,

COR. FOURTH AND WOOD STS.

IRA B. M'VAY & CO.,

Bankers,

AND DEALERS IN

Government Securities,

Cor. Fourth and Smithfield Streets,

BUY AND SELL ALL ISSUES OF

U. S. BONDS,

COMPOUND INTEREST NOTES AND GOLD.

SEVEN-THIRTIES

Converted into 5-20 Bonds at Market Rates.

IRA B. M'VAY & CO.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

SATURDAY EVENING, February 8, 1768.

A great national benefit, not easily over estimated, growing out of the war debt of the country, is the popular schooling now being afforded to the people at large on the subject of finance. It was unnecessary to study this science heretofore. A nation out of debt, in receipt of an income beyond its wants, without imposing a burthen upon anybody, may be pardonable for not spending much time upon an elaboration of the great financial question. Indeed it may be doubted if a thorough knowledge of so difficult a problem could be acquired in any other than the school of adversity, and under the admonition of inexorable debt. Nor was the opportunity either fitting or favorable for inaugurating a wise and permanent system, during the exciting period when each recurring day brought a new demand for sinews of war. While rich in resources, they were unavailing in a critical struggle, and the duty of the hour was to hypothecate these for ready means at any cost. The war successfully ended; the national debt at its maximum; the shoe beginning to pinch in a depressed business; these afford leisure and declare necessity for at length bending our energies in a new channel. For a noble purpose we launched, rightfully it is true, but swimmingly in debt. It is now equally noble to devise a scheme for honorable adjustment of every dollar that the preservation of the Union has cost, on a basis that will stimulate development of our resources and make ultimate extinguishment as inevitable as time itself.

This is now to be our study, and it will be well to realize its magnitude. Let us begin at once, but not hurry in a conclusion. Finances cannot be learned in a day. Congress has exhibited as much ignorance as anybody on the subject. One session may (and should) make a fair beginning; may adopt some salutary remedy for present distress; but one session will not master the whole subject. Amidst many insane projects for relief some wise words have appeared, and they are safe to be heeded. Let the people think; let them read and sift the plans proposed. Let them test these schemes by mental application to their individual affairs. It will be safe to reject as unsound any that will not admit of practicably beneficial application to the affairs of any solvent but embarrassed business firm.

Without proposing here to advocate any particular plan or to advance any complete theory, there are one or two principles or test points that may be laid down, which, like fixed stars, will guide any student of finance towards a correct notion of what measures will restore our condition to a healthy point.

Whenever solvency is menaced by debt that cannot be cancelled by ready means, the first step should be to inspire *confidence* in ultimate payment. Any system which secures the interest and provides for a steady reduction of the principal tends to this end. This system must not aim at so rapid a reduction as will peril its *certainty*. Its whole value lies in being available in final results.

A national currency of some sort is a great public convenience, and may be perpetuated. Although there is a floating debt, without interest, but if abused through superabundance or otherwise to remain for a long period at a discount, it becomes a national calamity. Therefore, the most urgent measures are necessary to restore the currency to a gold standard—the standard of the world. To accomplish this is not necessary to redeem it. No nation in the world has gold enough in the public treasury to replace their circulating medium entirely. If it had it would be idle and unproductive in their vaults, because paper exchange is a less expensive mode of trading. But it is necessary to make it *redeemable* in gold. The moment it is made so, in good